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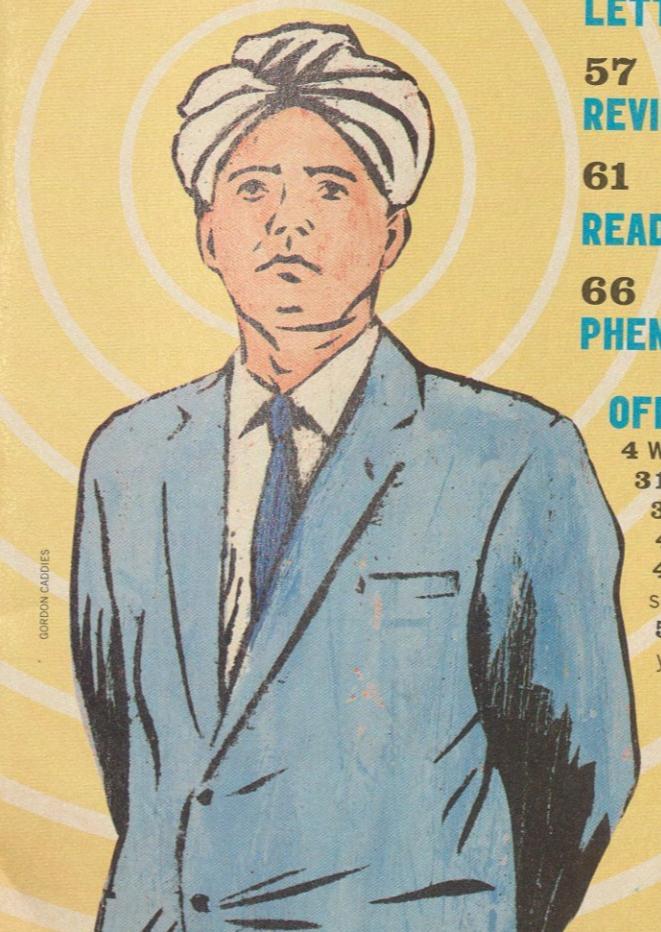
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editorial



NO CAUSE FOR ALARM

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ORIGINATION
GRAPHIC IDEAS STUDIOS
PRINTED BY
ET HERON

DISTRIBUTION

Distributed in UK by COMAG:
Taverstock Road, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 7QE
Tel: 01895 444055 / Fax: 01895 433602
Comic Shop and Specialty Store distribution by Viz Comic Distribution, PO Box 11E, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE99 1JE.
Tel: 0191 281 5629 / Fax: 0191 281 1449
Distributed in USA by Eastern News Distributors Inc. 2020 Superior St, Sandusky, Ohio 44870.
Tel: (212) 649 4484 / Fax: (212) 265 6239
US readers can discover their nearest FT stockist by ringing Eastern News toll-free on (800) 221 3148.

US POSTMASTER
Forteantimes is published every month for US\$59.40 per annum. Second Class postage is paid at Manhasset, NY and additional mailing offices. Please send address changes to:

Fenner Reed & Jackson Inc. at Box 754,
Manhasset, NY 11030, USA.
Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations.
Printed in the UK.
ISSN: 0308 5899
© Forteantimes: December 1996

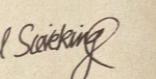
Since the end of the Cold War, so many governments have been caught out deceiving their people that the official declaration: "There is no cause for alarm" only sets all our alarm bells ringing. We at FT have dubbed the general climate of anxiety and suspicion PMT or pre-millennial tension. Part of the success of *The X-Files* is down to its articulation of this widespread alienation and that many of its hints at the secret power of non-elected groups in the military or government have the 'look and feel' of truth. Moles, spies, whistle-blowers and hot-shot reporters have played significant roles in exposing the activities of amoral groups in the security and intelligence services but, curiously, the key revelations about the US government's involvement with UFOs, remote viewing, psychic warfare and experiments on unsuspecting 'non-volunteers' are primarily due to changes in budget and policy.

Beginning on page 34, David Guyatt simplifies a bewildering amount of once-secret information to bring us an overview of officially-funded programmes that have just one aim - to improve the ability of security forces to neutralise or control you directly.

Why is this of interest to Forteans? It is difficult enough for investigators to distinguish between the objective facts (which might make a scientific argument) and the subjective data (of interest to psychologists, sociologists, folklorists and theologians). Now we cannot ignore the possibility that those who witness bizarre phenomena or relate extraordinary

ILLUMINATING OFFER

On 28 January there will be an opportunity few Forteans would knowingly forego - a special evening in the company of Robert Anton Wilson (renowned philosopher/prophet, author of more than 30 books and sometime FT columnist) and Richard Bandler (co-inventor of the revolutionary neuro-linguistic programming) at Imperial College, South Kensington, London - see the ad on page 6. Together they will explore the unfolding potential of our future, from technology to literature and from conspiracies to cyberspace. Time is short, so ring the organisers McKenna Breen on 0181 348 0629 for ticket details. Meanwhile, we have two pairs of tickets on offer to the first two people to tell us the title of the best-selling trilogy Robert Anton Wilson wrote with Robert Shea. If you know the answer call our competition hotline on 0171 470 3954.

COMPETITION 23 WINNERS

Congratulations to Mrs S Bonnett from Dorset; Jill Doubleday of Nottingham and JS Davies from Wrexham for naming George Adamski as the man who met the Venusians. A copy of *The Billy Meier Story* is on its way to each of you.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY 'FORTEAN'?



CHARLES HOY FORT
(1874-1932)

FORTEAN TIMES is a monthly magazine of news, reviews and research on strange phenomena and experiences, curiosities, prodigies and portents. It was founded in 1973 to continue the work of Charles Fort. Throughout his life, Fort was sceptical about scientific explanations, observing how scientists argued according to their own beliefs rather than the rules of evidence and that inconvenient data was ignored, suppressed, discredited or explained away (which is quite different from explaining a thing).

Fort, born of Dutch stock in Albany, New York, spent many years researching scientific literature in the New York Public Library and the British Museum Library. He marshalled his evidence and set forth his philosophy in *The Book of the Damned* (1919), *New Lands* (1923), *Lo!* (1931), and *Wild Talents* (1932). His dictum "One measures a circle beginning anywhere" expresses his philosophy of Continuity in which everything is in an intermediate state between extremes. He had ideas of the universe-as-organism and the transient nature of all apparent phenomena. He coined the term 'teleportation' and was perhaps the first to speculate that mysterious lights seen in the sky might be craft from outer space. However, he cut at the very roots of credulity: "I conceive of nothing, in religion, science or philosophy, that is more than the proper thing to wear, for a while."

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BIZARRE

The Aliens aren't coming ... THEY'RE ALREADY HERE!

Whether you put it down to pre-millennial tension, *The X-Files* or films like *Independence Day*, more and more of us really believe we're not alone!

This is the conclusion of the Rolling Rock/*Fortean Times* survey we conducted in our December issue.

According to the research we are a nation of people who have experienced the strange...

- * 41% have experienced or witnessed something beyond explanation
- * 17% claim to have spotted a UFO
- * 22% believe they have seen a ghost

When asked for explanations of UFO sightings, people cite everything from craft from other worlds in space (46%) and time or dimension travellers (36%) through to demons and other supernatural beings (8%). Also T.V. programmes like *The X-Files* seem to have a lot to answer for. The public believes a conspiracy exists to cover up crashed UFO's (44%), UFO sightings (38%), alien abductions and supra-governmental politics (both 22%). The Rolling Rock/*Fortean Times* research also suggests that people are becoming less sceptical about those offering spiritual services.

Something's however still remain beyond the realms of belief. The research reveals only 6% of us think any possible life on Mars actually is green.

Mike Dash, Publisher of *Fortean Times* says: *There have been many signs in the last year that interest in strange phenomena is at an all time high and more and more reports of bizarre incidents are flooding in to our offices. This suggests that not only that more sightings may be occurring, but also that people are less willing to believe what governments, science and other authorities tell them to. With this in mind we would expect the number of reports to keep on rising for at least the next few years.*

Oh yes and... The lucky winner of a years supply of Rolling Rock is: **Darren Barratt of Salford.**

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strange planet
questionnaire answers

strange days

A cabaret cavalcade of curios and conundrums



Moonfish off Britain

THIS OPAH or moonfish was caught 70 miles (112km) off the coast of Cornwall on 13 August while Mr Hosking (left in picture) and James Watson were hauling for hake. It is a very rare catch in West Country coastal waters, usually swimming at a depth of 1,000ft (305m). Another Opah was found by Ena Robertson lying on the sand at Gwithian beach near Hayle in Cornwall on the weekend of 14/15 September. It weighed 30lbs (14kg) and was about 2ft (60cm) long. A third specimen was found washed ashore on South Ronaldsay, Orkney, in October 1995. *Today*, 11 Oct 1995; *Western Morning News*, 14 Aug; *West Briton*, 19 Sept 1996.



sidelines

DE-MOTOR: Using technology first developed during the Cold War, police in Chula Vista, California, may be able to stop a car in its tracks by sending an electrical charge that disables the vehicle's electronics and shuts off its engine; (something UFOs have been doing for years, according to countless encounter reports!) [AP] 10 Aug 1996.

GREY MATTERS: A Chinese baby boy with two brains is doing well, but hardly sleeps because his brains work in rotation, according to the Xinhua news agency. The boy, who was born in Chaoyang city in north-eastern Liaoning province in July 1995, is growing well and does not need surgery, doctors said. He sleeps for about an hour a night and sometimes for as little as 20 minutes. [RJ] 14 Oct 1996.

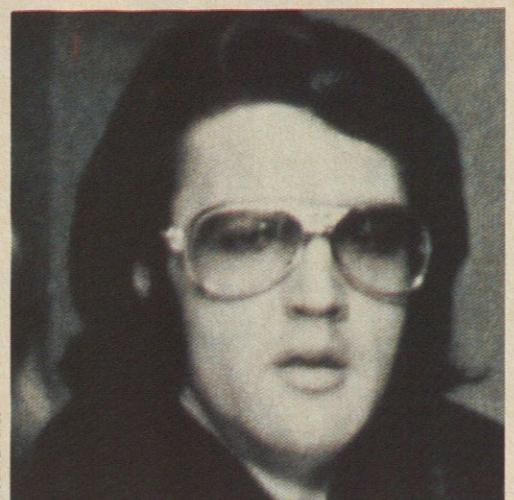
ENERGY VAMPIRE: When geologists found a 24lb (11kg) granite boulder bearing the footprint of a dinosaur in the Sima river in southern Siberia, they said it was luminous. Every person who has touched it or been in the same room with it has suffered a severe headache. Psychic investigators claimed it sapped people of energy and dubbed it an "energy vampire". *Hong Kong Standard*, 8 Oct 1996.

BANG, BANG, YOU'RE DAD: Raoul Garzas of São Paulo, Brazil, pleaded on television for help in tracking down his long-lost father, and then shot him dead when they were reunited. "I'd always hated him," said Raoul. *Independent on Sunday*, 15 Oct 1995.

JUST A DAB: A teacher in Thornaby village primary school, Teeside, confiscated a white powder being passed around in tin foil by an 11-year-old boy. A crime lab identified the powder as amphetamine sulphate (speed or whizz); the boy was interviewed by Cleveland police and suspended from school for 15 days. Five weeks later, the police admitted that "detailed analysis" showed the powder was sherbet, as the boy had insisted from the start. His parents were considering suing the police and education authority. *D. Telegraph*, 9 Nov 1996.

EURO-SUCKER? A herd of 28 sheep in Idanha-a-Nova to the west of Castelo Branco, Portugal, were found with a single deep hole on the right side of the neck, according to owner Fernando Soares. Nine of the sheep died. The attacks are widely seen as the work of the fearsome *Chupacabras* or goatsucker, which has somehow hopped the Atlantic from central America [see FT89.34]. Sceptics blame human mutilators. *Toronto Globe and Mail*, 5 Oct 1996.

IT BITES: A pestilence causing illness, stress and foolish decisions has been identified. Information Fatigue Syndrome (IFS) is caused by megabytes of information floating around on the internet, in fax trays, voice-mail boxes and the like. *Guardian*, 19 Oct 1996.



LONDON FEATURES



NASA

ALL HAIL THE KING: Was Elvis Presley an extraterrestrial, forced to flee Earth when pictures of the Face on Mars revealed his true identity?

Elvis rocks on Mars

A RECENTLY published book offers an exciting twist to the investigation of the mysterious 'Face' on Mars, writes **Neil Nixon**. The face is nothing less than "a huge mountain sized sculpture... that proves that Elvis is an interplanetary entity, incarnated on different planets at different times". To be fair to the author Mick Farren, his book *The Hitchhikers' Guide to Elvis* simply collects a range of interesting and unusual Elvis information.

The Martian link to the cult of the King was first suggested by a fan in the 1980s. The story has since featured in the same US supermarket tabloids that regularly report sightings, spiritual contacts and miracles related to the King of Rock 'n' Roll. The Elvis face has an edge on the competing stories simply

because there are two separate strands of supporting 'evidence'. First, the computer-enhanced pictures are blurry enough to resemble the appearance – if you are so inclined – of the chubbier Seventies model Elvis complete with 'big hair'. Second, the Mariner pictures pre-date the King's death by little more than a year.

Did Elvis realise that worldwide reproduction of his *unmistakable* image on Mars would finally reveal his extraterrestrial identity? Did this prompt a hurried departure by UFO from Graceland? Is the body laid in the grounds of his mansion really that of an extraterrestrial biological entity? Probably not, but since when did logical arguments ever stop a good 'Dead Elvis' story?

A full discussion of 'Dead Elvis' stories appears in **Neil Nixon's** article 'Flying Triangles and Media Triangles' in *Fortean Studies 3* – see page 43 to order your copy.



HUNT EMERSON

Wake up, mushrooms

A VILLAGER in Hobetsu, on the Japanese island of Hokkaido, noticed that the national delicacy, shiitake mushrooms, always seemed to sprout after a thunderstorm. So the village shiitake farm decided to try to improve production by fooling the fungi into thinking that a big storm was on the way. First they tried banging the tables on which the shiitake grew. Nothing much happened.

Then they tried setting off loud fireworks. The shiitake sprouted, but the sprouts were too small. Finally, they persuaded local women to bang drums near the mushroom beds for several hours

in the morning and again after lunch. This seemed to work, so the farm recorded the women's efforts, installed a powerful hi fi system in the mushroom sheds and now play the tapes over and over again every day.

The shiitake supposedly sprout faster and stronger. 'Feedback' in *New Scientist*, which reported this on 28 September 1996, suggested a control experiment comparing the growth of mushroom bred in silence with those which have been deafened by drumming. The piece goes on to report: "We always thought that mushrooms the world over sprout after a thunderstorm for the simple reason that rain follows thunder and mushrooms happen to like wet soil."

stop press...stop press...stop press...stop press...

STANLEY MEYER – an American inventor who claimed his cold-fusion-like 'Water Fuel Cell' could power a car – was found guilty of "gross and egregious fraud" in an Ohio court. He was ordered to repay \$25,000 (£15,000) to investors. *Sunday Times*, 1 Dec 1996.

CNN/AP, 28 Nov 1996

VIRGIN BOOKS have been reprimanded by the Advertising Standards Authority over claims made in the advertising for the Uri Geller Mind-Power Kit. The August 1996 issue of the ASA's newsletter featured a detailed report. The £19.99 kit contains a book, a one-hour cassette, a crystal and a small piece of cardboard with an orange dot on it. A complaint was made to the Authority about the advertisement's claim that these last two items are "imbued with Uri's unique powers". In their defence, Virgin provided testimony from scientists who accept that Geller has unusual powers. The Authority were further informed that Geller had imbued the crystals by holding them in his hands and that

AUSTRALIAN GEOLOGIST Ian Plimmer of the University of Melbourne has sold his house to contest the claims of a Canberra-based creationist organisation that Noah's Ark has been found near Mount Ararat in Turkey. The case begins in Sydney's Federal Court on 7 April 1997. *New Scientist*, 30 Nov 1996.

Hitler's Herr-cut

DURING THE summer, a couple of reports appeared in the less salubrious sections of the British press about a strange phenomenon of exactly the sort which appealed to Fort, writes **Joe McNally**. It was claimed in the *Daily Star* (10 July) and (briefly) in the *Sunday People* (14 July) that Madame Tussaud's dummy of Hitler was in need of a haircut.

Not unreasonably, the story was treated with some derision. *The Star* faked up a picture of a shaggy-haired Hitler with a Charles Bronson moustache to go with their feature, while the *People* limited their coverage to a brief quote from Tussaud's employee Gill Griffith: "There are 500 figures here, and he's the only one acting queer."

Perhaps the most worrying aspect of the story is that Tussaud's don't seem to be playing it up as a publicity gimmick. So just what had happened? Museum employee Diane Robertson was able to fill me in.

"Every two months or so, we have a Portraits Committee meeting to decide which new figures we should commission, and so on. Among all the usual discussions,

our Head of Portraits, Judy Craig, suddenly mentioned that she felt Hitler should be removed from

display, as she thought his hair needed attention.

"We all wondered what she could mean, and she told us that his fringe appeared to have grown down over his eyes. Now, this is particularly strange, as our Hitler figure is in a locked glass case to prevent vandalism. We thought that she must be mistaken, but we compared the figure with an old photograph and his fringe did appear to have grown a couple of centimeters. The staff all thought this was hilarious, of course, and then the *Times* picked up on it, and it took off from there."

But surely this is just some sort of publicity stunt? "Actually, you'd be quite surprised at the reaction we've had. Most of the calls that followed the piece in the *Star* were from people complaining that we had Hitler on display at all! This is why we keep him in a glass case."

Although the Hitler model first went on show at Tussaud's during World War II, this is the first time that it has been involved in any

HERR LINE: Hitler sports trimmed hair

he had put his hands in the orange paint used to print the dot. However, the Authority "was concerned that the advertisers gave no specific evidence to show the crystal and meditation card were installed with Uri Geller's claimed powers" and the complaint was upheld. Virgin were requested not to use the claims again. *ASA Newsletter*, August 1996; *The Skeptic*, vol 10 no 4.

A SOLAR panel on the Mars Global Surveyor – launched on 6 November 1996 – failed to deploy during its first day in space. JPL project manager Glenn Cunningham said it will not jeopardise the craft's mission or telemetry. *NASA News*, 27 Nov 1996.

TEXAN ASTRONOMER Chuck Shramek claims to have photographed a mysterious "companion" to comet Hale Bopp, dismissed by professional astronomers as an "aberration". Remote viewer Courtney Brown has declared it to be an alien spacecraft heading this way. Full report next issue.

untoward goings-on. Occasionally, the exhibits do fall victim to minor vandalism – Gazza's ear was recently broken, fingers go missing from time to time, and political badges and stickers make the odd appearance on figures' lapels – but, as the Hitler figure is kept in a glass case, this seems an unlikely explanation.

The tale of the Führer's hair is made all the more eerie by the fact that all Tussaud's exhibits sport human hair, inserted and set as it would be in a living person. The staff member in charge of Hair and Colour has suggested that this might be why the hair apparently grew, although the mechanism by which this might occur remains opaque. The *Star* report mentioned that the hair in question came from Germany, although this might be down to wishful thinking on their part.

Other than this, no explanation has been advanced for this entirely baffling phenomenon. The *Star* quoted "hair specialist" Dr Caroline Wilson of St James's Hospital, Leeds, as saying it would be "impossible" for cut hair to regrow in this way. Hitler's hair has been assiduously checked every morning since, but no new growth has been reported.

LIBRARY GHOST: A female civil servant who frequently visits the site of the new British Library in Euston, London, said that builders there have heard "clanking sounds". She herself has seen a "weeping man in 18th-century dress". *Sunday Times*, 19 May 1996.

sidelines

LAST WORDS: Talayi George Sogwe, 65, sat up in his coffin and brought his funeral service to an abrupt end. Two hours into the service at his home in the Port Elizabeth black township of Zwide, he had heard enough. "I simply wanted to know what people would say about me when I am dead," he said. Sogwe staged the funeral with the help of his wife and family at a cost of more than \$1,000, more than twice the average monthly income of a Zwide family. He said that he would keep the coffin and use it in his real funeral. *Newspot*, 12 Nov 1996.

STRIPES: A herd of zebras surrounded a minibus carrying students in south-eastern Kenya, and started kicking it. They left only when another minibus driver threw a bottle of water over them. A game warden said he had never before seen zebras behaving aggressively. [AFP] 14 Oct 1996.

FRESH: A woman traffic warden was walking to work in Digbeth, Birmingham, when a man leapt in front of her, smeared her face with toothpaste from a piece of cardboard and fled. *Coventry Eve Telegraph*, 17 Sept 1996.

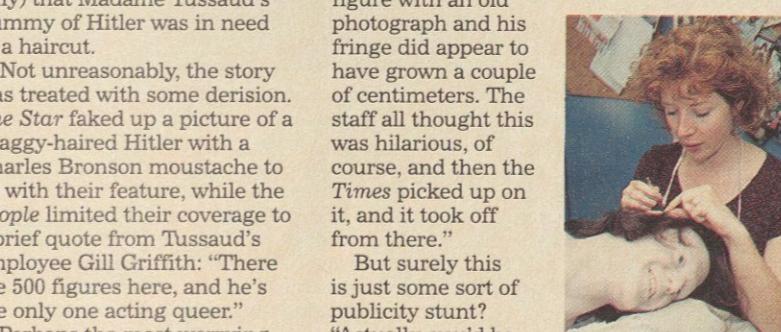
COLD COMFORT: South African cryobiologists at the Alcor Life Extension Foundation in Scottsdale, Arizona, have successfully revived a rat's heart frozen in liquid nitrogen at -196°C. They have also frozen and revived rats' livers and a pig's heart in Pretoria. We could be one step closer to successful cryogenics; at the very least, it might be possible to store donor organs indefinitely. *Guardian*, 3 Oct 1996.

12-BORE NEIGHBOUR: From a letter in the *Dundee Courier* (28 Aug 1996): "My family and I own a 25-acre farm in Crieff and are shooting tenants on another estate nearby."

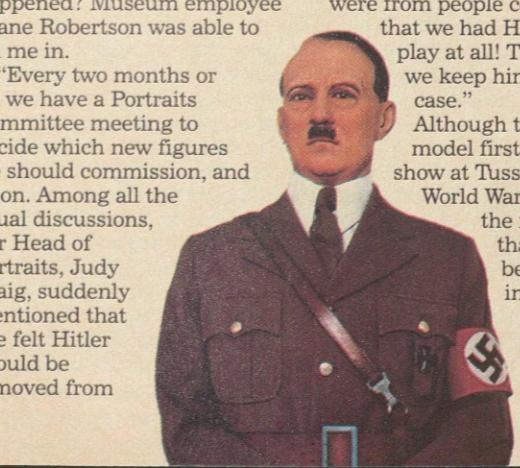
RECORD BREAKER: About 25 police forces in Michigan bought a computer program that is eating up case records. So far four years of data has disappeared – and so has the software maker. [AP] 26 Oct 1996.

ARMFUL: Court officials in rural Hejian said that police recently broke up a ring of a dozen "bloodheads" (blood brokers) who were holding 74 people hostage as blood producers. Authorities closed the local blood station and arrested its two directors. One of those rescued was ill with tetanus when kidnapped by gang members posing as work contractors. Bloodheads had to carry him to the clinic; in four days they drained 2.5 pints of his blood. He died six days after the rescue. *Newsweek*, 11 Nov 1996.

LIBRARY GHOST: A female civil servant who frequently visits the site of the new British Library in Euston, London, said that builders there have heard "clanking sounds". She herself has seen a "weeping man in 18th-century dress". *Sunday Times*, 19 May 1996.



HAIR APPARENT: Inserting follicles



BOTH PICS: MADAME TUSSAUDS

sidelines

LENGTHS: Two men in Botosani, Romania, have been refused entry to the Orthodox priesthood because their penises "don't reach the minimum length set down in the rules" according to the *Scottish Daily Record* (8 July 1996).

HER CUP OVERFLOWS: Elementary teacher Patricia Locke from Palm Harbor, Florida, was stopped by a highway patrolman in May 1995 and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol. The school suspended her. However, a judge accepted her argument that silicone leaking from a breast implant poisoned her system, causing her to lose control of her car. The Pinellas County School Board voted on 12 November that she could return to work. Surgeons have replaced the silicone implants with saline-filled implants. [R] 13 Nov 1996.

TRIPPED AT THE LAST: Helen Jamieson, 34, trekked more than 12,000 miles around India safely only to break her ankle tripping on her doorstep when she arrived home in Bats, Kansas. *D. Record*, 5 Aug 1996.

HEADHUNTER: A spooked hunter in Detroit, Oregon, dialled 911 when he saw a severed human head staring through the window of an abandoned mining shed, a bullet piercing its forehead. Marion County Sheriff's deputy Larry Taylor drove for miles up a rutted road, then trekked a half-mile in the snow to retrieve the head. It turned out to be a mannequin with a price tag disguised as a bullet hole. *USA Today*, 12 Nov 1996.

HORNY OLD WOMAN: A 99-year-old woman in Shengxian, Zhejiang province, eastern China, has sprouted horns. They started growing on Zhang Taofeng's head after she developed a lump in her forehead in 1992. One horn disappeared in 1995, but a replacement appeared. For other human horns, see FT43:36. *Hong Kong Standard*, 16 Oct 1996.

SHELL OUT: A couple queued for two hours to have china valued by the BBC's Antiques Roadshow in Ludlow, Shropshire, only to find they had brought a box containing their hibernating tortoise. *D. Telegraph*, 18 Oct 1996.

AXING FOR IT: A Sri Lankan woman who said her alcoholic husband beat her almost every day of their eight years of marriage chopped off his head when he lunged at her drunkenly with an axe.

One month later, Karupiah Chandrasekeran, a 30-year-old tea planter, walked into Badulla police station in eastern Sri Lanka carrying his wife's head in a bag in one hand and an umbrella in the other. He said he beheaded his wife after accusing her of infidelity. *Middlesbrough Eve. Gazette*, 11 June; *D. Telegraph*, 9 July 1996.

Tall tales of rope tricks

NEW WORK by two psychologists at the University of Hertfordshire has cast doubt on the reliability of witness's accounts of one of the most famous examples of 'real magic', the Indian rope trick. In the classic version of the trick, an Indian fakir throws a rope into the air. Before it can fall, the rope apparently becomes solid. A small boy is sent up the rope and disappears when he reaches the top. The fakir follows with a knife, vanishes, and a shower of what are supposed to be the boy's dismembered limbs fall to the ground. Finally, the fakir descends the rope, places the bloody remains in a basket and returns the boy to life.

Various versions of this amazing feat were reported many times in the press during British rule in India, but most performances were seen by passers-by in open-air street shows. Despite large sums of money being offered, the trick was never observed under more rigorous conditions. This has led sceptics to claim that the many eyewitness reports are the result of exaggeration, hallucination or mesmerism.

Richard Wiseman and Peter Lamont, writing in *Nature*, have presented the results of an investigation into the 'exaggeration effect'. Thanks to the extensive press coverage of the Indian rope trick during the 19th and early 20th centuries, they were able to come up with 22 detailed and firmly dated first-hand accounts. They then asked a committee of magicians to categorise the accounts according to the 'impressiveness' of the trick: whether the boy just climbs up and down the rope, whether he also disappears at the top and so on. The 'impressiveness' category was then in each case compared with the amount of time that had elapsed between the performance of the trick and the subsequent setting-down of the witness's account.

The results strongly indicate that the longer an eyewitness waits before setting down in writing or otherwise publicising their account, the more impressive that account is likely to be. The shortest time lapse in the sample was two years, in the case of FW Holmes's report in *The Strand Magazine* of April 1919. Even this brief interval seems enough for the 'exaggeration effect' to do its work: one witness claimed to have seen and photographed the Indian rope trick, but had to admit that on closer examination the photograph in fact showed a child balancing on the end of a long bamboo pole.

The survey clearly has consequences for the investigation and proof or disproof of all phenomena that ultimately rely on the testimony of eyewitnesses. If, as many have suggested and as this study indicates, we all have a (probably involuntary) tendency to tell increasingly tall



MARY EVANS/HARRY PRICE COLLECTION, UNIV. OF LONDON

ROPEY: The longer witnesses wait before telling their story the taller it gets

stories as time passes, then the value of witnesses's evidence is called into question not just in the case of the Indian rope trick but also in the fields of magic and the paranormal generally, ufology and cryptozoology. It underlines, once again, the healthy scepticism with which eyewitness accounts should be met and the need for concrete evidence. *Nature*, vol.383, no.6597, p.212, 19 Sept 1996. Thanks to John Baker.



Missouri cougar back and killing

A MISSOURI wildlife official has made the state's first documented sighting of a wild mountain lion since 1927. Despite several reported sightings in recent years, biologists have never

been able to prove that mountain lions, also known as cougars or panthers, were living in the wild in Missouri. But Jerry Elliott, an agent with the Missouri Department of Conservation, filmed a large cougar in the Ozark mountains of south-east Missouri in early November. He was called in after a farmer heard screams coming from a pasture and used a camcorder to film the big cat near a freshly-killed deer.

Biologists confirmed the sighting after viewing the tape. Cougars were once common in the Ozarks, but their numbers dwindled as humans encroached on their habitat. [R] 8 Nov 1996.

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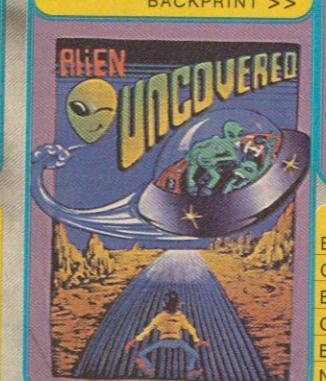
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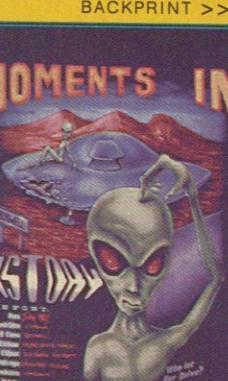
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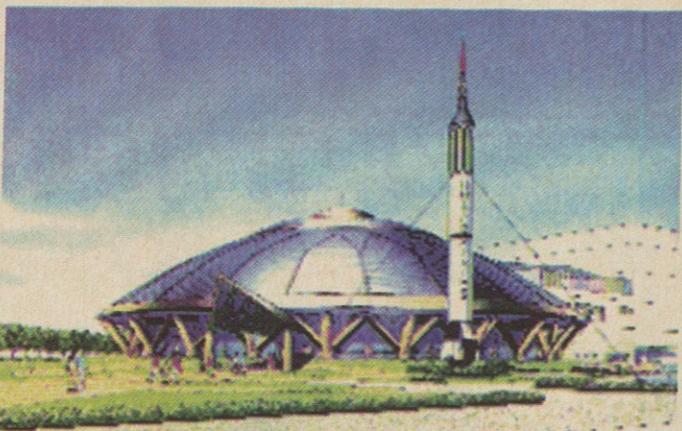
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Aliens kidnap UFO museum

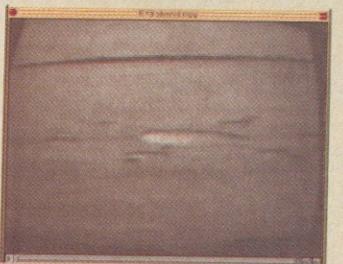
Japan was set to reveal the 'great UFO cover up' with the opening of a museum and promised displays of artifacts retrieved from UFO crashes. At least that is how it seemed to ufologists around the world. **Bob Rickard** finds out that the only thing on show was the credulity of hoodwinked researchers



UNCLEAR ABOUT TAKE OFF: Artist's impression of the controversial Cosmo Isle Hakui Museum, Japan

SINCE LATE 1993, rumours have circulated in the international UFO community that the Japanese government was taking seriously the idea of a museum dedicated to the interaction of humans and aliens – serious enough to merit big money; \$60million was being mentioned. Anticipated by whole sections of the ufological community and even written up in the international press, the opening ceremonies, set for July 1996, were to include a special three-day symposium that

The first intimations that not all was right was when Michael Lindemann, president of the Institute for the Study of Contact with Non-human Intelligence (now abbreviated to CNI), received an odd statement from a Los Angeles-based liaison service called Teleport USA that was promoting US tourism to the opening symposium. The statement appeared to represent local business interests in Hakui and announced that the symposium was postponed. It blamed controversy generated by "usage of



VICIOUS CIRCLE: Frames from a film offered to Colin Andrews on 11 August 1996 that purports to show the formation of a crop circle at Oliver's Castle near Devizes, Wiltshire. Andrews now thinks it's a hoax

would unite the world's top UFO researchers and scientists.

A typical report read: "On July 4, the Municipal Government of Hakui City, Japan will open a multi-million-dollar UFO Museum, created with federal government funds. Command Sergeant-Major Robert Dean, USA/NATO (ret.) is being flown in to address the opening ceremonies crowd. In convincing Dean to come, the Japanese officials told him that the Museum will contain physical artifacts from UFO crash retrievals and proof of extraterrestrial corpses found, among other evidence. The Japanese are no longer waiting for the Western countries before ending the UFO Cover-up with their own population."

Curiously, that same date saw the release of the gung-ho anti-alien movie *Independence Day*. (Some saw this, too, as a plot of the insidious 'Cover-Up' organisation.)

the West received any news that clarified the matter. Messages from the Japanese ufologist Jun-ichi Takanashi, chairman of the Japan UFO Science Society, were received by Lindemann and Beyond Boundaries, a Texas-based UFO research organisation, among others. In them, Takanashi said that he found that most of the stories emanated from a young ufologist named Johsen Takano who, as a local planning official for Hakui City, found himself in a position to make his dream of a 'UFO Museum' come true.

Although a museum did indeed open in Hakui on 1 July, it was, Takanashi confirmed, "an ordinary space museum." It had never been referred to as a 'UFO Museum' locally, Takanashi said. "Only Mr Johsen Takano called it so abroad. It has always been called 'Space Museum' in the city and, at the end of 1994, its name was changed to 'Cosmo Isle Hakui Museum'."

So where had the idea come from that the Japanese government was funding a long-term project to educate people about the UFO phenomenon? Takano had attended many UFO conventions outside Japan, where many western ufologists accepted him as a spokesman

exploration; so, remembering the success of a large UFO symposium there in 1990 – which probably sparked off the initial idea of a permanent UFO centre – the city fathers warmed to the new angle. Takano took this as a green light and set about promoting it in good faith, only to be let down by politicians with cold feet.

Recently, investigators were able to establish a probable link between Takano and the pictures of the 'alien' published by *Penthouse* owner Bob Guccione [see **FT93:18**]. In 1995, as part of his research for the museum project, Takano visited the International UFO Museum in Roswell where the 'alien' is on display. He had given his photos of it to a Professor Chiang of Taiwan who later published them claiming the 'alien' was real. As we know, the pictures were picked up by *Ming Pao*, a Hong Kong newspaper, and then posted on a web site [see **FT84:32**].

Recremations now abound over who duped whom, but they miss the point. If there is a moral here, it is to be wary of marvellous stories transmitted by credulous believers without checking them. Perhaps the real mystery is why Guccione felt he had to offer a patently daft story

for the 'officially-funded' museum' project. British ufologist-turned-crop circles expert Colin Andrews, in particular, was so impressed that – since the Fall 1993 issue of his *Circle Phenomenon Research International Newsletter* – he became a de facto ambassador for the 'UFO Museum', enthusiastically promoting it through his correspondence, lectures and newsletter.

"But at home," said Takanashi, "it was a laughing stock among all Japanese UFO researchers. Our government has never shown interest in the UFO subject." Nevertheless, the international interest did not go unnoticed among some Hakui city officials who realised the value of tourism to such a small out-of-the-way (population 27,000) community. After all, Takanashi points out, many other towns in Japan also have museums dedicated to space

about getting the pictures from the daughter of a German scientist. He has yet to explain.

SOURCES

Special thanks to Jun-ichi Takanashi, Michael Lindemann and Paul Fuller for use of their research material. A full account of the 'UFO Museum' scandal has been researched and documented by Paul Fuller and will appear in his periodical *The Crop Watcher* #29. Paul Fuller: 3 Selborne Court, Tavistock Close, Romsey, Hants SO51 7TY. E-mail: 100611.1013@compuserve.com CNI News: www.cninews.com Jun-ichi Takanashi, CPO: Box No. 1437, Osaka 530-91, Japan. Circles Phenomenon Research International. CPRI Newsletter, Colin Andrews [Ed]: PO Box 3378, Branford, CT 06405-1978, USA. Beyond Boundaries: Box 250, Rainbow, TX 76077, USA. E-mail: jmurphy@onramp.net UFO UpDates. An e-mail subscription service for students of UFO-related phenomena edited by Errol Bruce-Knapp. E-mail: ebk@yesic.com



SMASHING: Artist's representation of the number (by hole size) and distribution of shattered car rear-windows in Los Angeles

Shattering LA freeway mystery

A PUZZLING wave of attacks on the back windows of cars in the Los Angeles area began on 11 September. Five drivers on the Long Beach and San Bernadino freeways heard a loud pop and the sound of their rear windows shattering. A month later, the number of incidents had risen to 244. There had been no injuries. None of the victims could identify the source of the attacks. Few of them happened near bridges or overpasses, ruling out those as launching sites. Police often found small holes in glass that remained intact, but did not initially find any projectiles in or around the cars, giving rise to wild theories about sound waves, lasers, isotropic radiators and melting ice balls. Investigators suspected that the perpetrators were driving behind their victims, using ballbearing guns, pellet guns or high-powered catapults that could propel small objects with enough power to shatter glass, but not enough force to go through windows and come to rest inside the cars.

Press coverage and the offer of a \$10,000 reward for information leading to a conviction seemed to encourage copycats. On 1 October, the night of the greatest number of attacks, there were 42 incidents from the San Gabriel Valley to Hollywood, often in quick succession – early in the evening, there were nine

shatterings on four freeways within 18 minutes. The following day, the total reward offered rose to \$35,000.

Almost all the attacks took place after dark, between 7pm and midnight, with almost half between 9pm and 11pm. At first, most were at weekends, but over the month the greatest number – 61 – occurred on Tuesdays. Motorists were struck on 15 area freeways, but more than half of the attacks took place on four: the Santa Monica, San Bernardino, Harbor and Hollywood. The majority of hits were within 10 miles of downtown Los Angeles, but some were as far afield as Riverside, 60 miles (100km) away.

Jose Soto, 21 and Hugo Hernandez, 22, both self-proclaimed gang members, were arrested in Los Angeles on 9 October after a telephone tip. Searching Soto's apartment, police found a sawn-off shotgun, an AK-47 assault rifle, a 9mm semi-automatic handgun, ball bearings, marbles, spark plugs and two air guns. Apparently, marbles, ball-bearings and fragments of spark plugs had been found in several damaged vehicles. It was stressed that the two men were not being held responsible for all the incidents; indeed, there were further attacks after they were in custody. *Los Angeles Times*, 25 Sept, 3+6+11 Oct; *New York Times*, 11 Oct 1996.

Getting on a bit

A BUSH of King's holly *Lomatia tasmanica* (pictured) has been found astride two river gullies in Tasmania's south-western wilderness. It has spread for almost a mile and stands up to 26ft (8m) high in places. The plant is sterile, meaning that it cannot grow from seed, but regenerates itself. As its roots spread, inching into new territory, they die off at the tail end.

The leaf structure was identical to those growing on the plant today, leading us to conclude that today's plant is the same that was growing when the leaf fell to earth." It is possible that the plant is even older than the fossil.

Previously, the world's oldest plant was thought to be a huckleberry bush in Pennsylvania, at 13,000 years. The new record-holder is named after amateur botanist Deny King, who discovered it in 1969 while prospecting for tin. Unfortunately, the plant is in danger from the deadly root-rot disease *phytophthora*, which can be carried on the boots of bushwalkers and is killing other species of plant in the vicinity. *The Australian*, 18 Oct; *D.Mail*, 19 Oct 1996.

"A perfect fossil of a leaf has been found five miles from the plant," said botanist Jane Balmer from the University of Tasmania. "Carbon dating puts its age at 43,600 years.



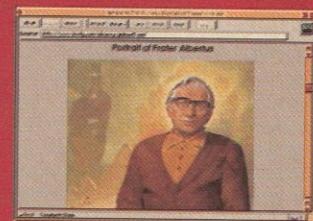
IAN TRESMAN catches some odd flies in his world wide web. Links to each of these items can be found on the Fortean Times web site at: [fortean-times.com](http://www.fortean-times.com)

THE BILLY MEIER HOME PAGE

For more than 54 years, 'Billy' Eduard Albert Meier has maintained a series of physical and telepathic contacts with extraterrestrial beings who claim they come from the Pleiades star cluster. On this site, Billy responds to his detractors and shares whatever is on his mind.

TIM ELDER'S PARALINKS

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ANDY'S STRANGE DEATHS PAGE

Includes the one about slapstick comedian Yves Abouchar, who choked to death on a custard pie thrown in his face and the celebrating Turk who fired a gun into the air, but forgot that he was indoors: the bullets bounced off the concrete ceiling killing two guests and wounding nine.

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Ian Tresman is a web publisher, and a member of the SIS: the society that looks at modern catastrophism and electricity in astronomy.

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Fortean follow ups

In which we return to some of the tales reported in the pages of *Fortean Times* to find out what happened next. This month we revisit mutant frogs, killer worms, a troublesome rock and the man who mistook his wife for an alien



LEGS: Scientists are baffled by the discovery of deformed frogs, such as this one with two extra hind legs, in Minnesota and Wisconsin

MUTANT FROGS [FT90:18]

Deformed frogs in Minnesota were first reported on 8 August 1995 by school students from Le Seur, after a field trip to wetlands. Of the 22 frogs caught that day, 11 were deformed. Since then, frogs with grotesquely misshapen or extra limbs, with tails, missing or shrunken eyes or extra-small genitalia have been found in 54 of Minnesota's 87 counties, as well as in neighbouring Wisconsin and South Dakota, and even as far away as Quebec and Vermont.

Theories explaining the deformities include pesticides, parasites, acid rain and radiation from ozone depletion. That the abnormalities are widespread suggests the problem has more than one source, according to the aptly-named David Hoppe, a herpetologist from the

University of Minnesota at Morris. His best guess is water pollution, possibly from something airborne, such as heavy metals or pesticides. The deformities coincide with an overall global decline in numbers of frogs, toads and salamanders.

Mutant frogs turned up in a park in Kitakyushu, Fukuoka, Japan, in October 1996. Seven of 59 frogs of a species known as Yamaakagaeru that were captured had extra forelegs. Before this incident, only 24 cases of mutant frogs had been reported across Japan. However, only one or two were found in each case.

Frogs, with their permeable skins and a life-cycle both aquatic and land-based, are key indicators of the environment's health. We have reason to worry. *Int. Herald Tribune*, D. *Yomiuri (Japan)*, 2 Oct; *[AP] Brainerd (MN) Daily Dispatch*, 10 Oct; *Cable News Network*, 24 Oct; *D. Telegraph*, 5 Nov 1996.

ROCKING BLUES [FT89:18]

The iridescent blue mineral from Morocco taken into the Natural History Museum by geologist Anna Grayson in March 1996 and thought to be undescribed can be found throughout the Moroccan Rif Mountains and in the basement of the Natural History Museum itself - in a drawer marked "P" for problems.

It has now been identified as aerinite (Greek for blue sky) by Dr Mohammed Bensaid of the Moroccan Ministry of Mines. The Natural History Museum has 350,000 minerals, plus a further 300 of questionable status. The four aerinite specimens in the "P" drawer came from Spain, France and Morocco, the first two before 1911. "Nobody at the museum had

ever seen them," said a spokeswoman. "They weren't on the database, so when we searched it they weren't found."

Aerinite, which contains calcium, aluminium, iron, silicon, magnesium and oxygen, is not a common rock. The blue colour, the most intense of any mineral, is believed to be caused by the presence of two forms of iron, between which electrons are constantly moving. *Times*, 21 Sept; *Guardian*, 26 Sept 1996.

CRIME PAYS WHEN THE VICTIM'S IN A DAZE [FT93:10]

The bodies of the two missing Belgian girls, An Marchal and Eefje Lambrechts, last seen leaving a hypnotist's show in Blankenberge, were found during investigations into the crimes of Marc

Dutroux, who kidnapped children and young women, used them to make pornography and then murdered them. There were no links found with the hypnotist. [Thanks to reader Anja Bart and others for drawing this to our attention.]

WIFE SLAUGHTERED AFTER PASTA ROW [FT84:10]

Richard H Rosenthal, who murdered his wife and hacked out her heart and lungs after an argument about overcooked ziti (a pasta dish) pleaded insanity at his trial which opened on 17 October 1996. His lawyer

Norman Zalkind maintained that the deluded insurance executive thought that his wife was possessed by aliens. "He thinks he is going to die!" said the lawyer, using the rhetorical present tense. "He thinks the aliens are going to come out of her, and he gets confused about a stake and vampires and tries to put a stake in her." The prosecution, however, said Rosenthal was a control freak and wife-beater who displayed mental clarity when he told police: "I did a terrible thing tonight." Zalkind said Rosenthal's alien theory emerged in letters he wrote before the killing and in interviews with psychiatrists at Bridgewater State Hospital. Rosenthal believes Jews are coming from outer space to breed with earthlings. *Boston Herald*, 18 Oct 1996.

KILLER WORMS [FT62:17, 78:17, 84:14]

Two specimens of an unknown third species of foreign flatworm that could devour Britain's earthworms were discovered in an Edinburgh garden in June 1996. The creamy-white creature is an entirely new species never before described by taxonomists. The other two alien species, accidentally introduced in the early 1960s, are the New Zealand flatworm *Artioposthia triangulata*, concentrated in southern Scotland, and the Australian flatworm *Caenoplana alba*, found mostly in southwest England.

Hugh Jones, a biologist at the University of Manchester, suspects that the new species also comes from New Zealand, basing his opinion on similarities with known species. Earthworms perform the valuable task of fertilising and aerating the soil and their decline could also reduce populations of animals which feed on them, such as hedgehog, badgers and blackbirds. *New Scientist*, 7 Sept; *D. Telegraph*, 19 Sept 1996.

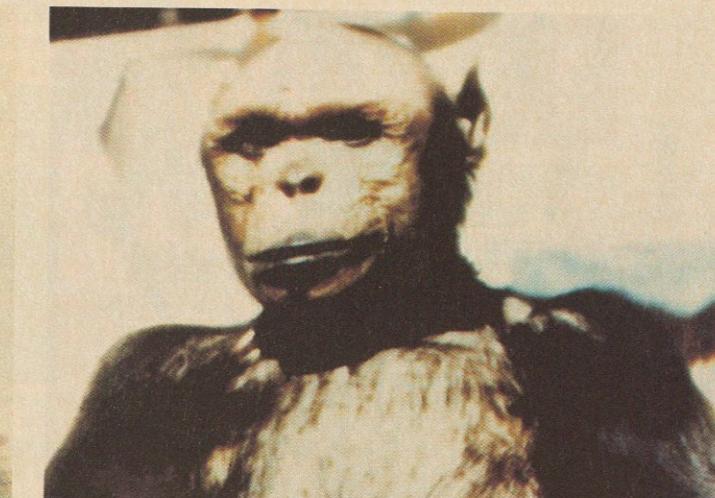
Oo-be-doo, I want to be like you

He flushes the toilet after using it, watches TV, can fix himself a whisky and soda and even tried it on with his keeper's wife - Oliver is clearly no ordinary ape, but is he a human-chimpanzee hybrid? We wait for the tests to come back



OLIVER, IS A MILD-MANNERED, middle-aged ape who walks upright like a human. He has retired to Boerne in Hill County, Texas, where he shares a spacious open air cage with other chimpanzees at a sanctuary called Primarily Primates. He has long excited interest because of his very small domed head and squared-off jawline, his peculiar odour, eye colouring, bird-like voice and distinctive mannerisms. Both his head and chest are virtually hairless, and his ears are not like those of normal chimps.

The prevailing view is that Oliver is simply a mutant chimp," said Dr Gordon Gallup, professor of anthropology at the University of New York at Albany. "Others think he might be a cross between a common chimp and a pygmy chimp." Robert E Jones, writing in the magazine *Pursuit* in 1975, thought he was a cross between a chimp and a *Sehite* or *Agogue*, the pygmy wildman reported for many years from Central Africa. Dr Gallup offered another possibility: "There is reason to suspect that Oliver might be a human-chimpanzee hybrid. Humans with Down's Syndrome have 49 chromosomes, but there is no indication that Oliver is a chimp with Down's Syndrome. A sample of his blood is about to undergo sophisticated genetic



KING OF THE SWINGERS: [Left] Oliver the mild mannered ape takes a walk and [above] on show as part of a freak show in San Antonio. He is now enjoying life in retirement at Primarily Primates, San Antonio.

conducted in China, Italy and the United States have persisted for many years.

Oliver was born around 1969 and was acquired in the early 1970s by South African animal trainers Frank and Janet Burger, whose animal acts were once regularly featured on the *Ed Sullivan Show* at Radio City Music Hall. He never went on all fours; if you gave him a coin, he'd go off to a soft drink dispensing machine and bring back a bottle. He made use of a lavatory, flushing it afterwards. He acquired habits normally enjoyed only by humans, including a cup of coffee and a nightcap.

"He came in from Africa with three other chimps that one of Frank's brothers had sent over from the Congo," said Janet Burger, now 69. "But this one we could never use. He was odd and the other chimps would have nothing to do with him. You could send him on chores. He would take the wheelbarrow and empty the hay and straw from the stalls. And when it was time to feed the dogs, he would get the pans and mix the dog food for me. I'd get it ready and he'd mix it. He enjoyed sitting down at night and having a drink and watching television. He'd pour a shot of whiskey and put some Seven-Up in there, stir it and drink it." By 1976, Mrs Burger recalled: "He had sex on his mind. He didn't care about the female chimps we had, he started trying to have sex with me and any other woman. I told my husband: 'I'm not putting up with this. He's going or I'm going.'

Michael Miller, a New York City lawyer, and a partner bought Oliver for \$8,000 (or \$10,000, according to another report). The explorer John Blashford-Snell saw him in New York in March 1976. Miller toured with Oliver round the world; in Japan, newspaper accounts reported that 26 million Japanese saw the enigmatic creature. After several years with Mr Miller, Oliver was owned by a series of West Coast animal trainers, beginning with Ralph Helfer, the owner of Enchanted Village in Buena Park, California, where he was exhibited as 'The Missing Link'. Ken DeCroz had him for a while and the last animal trainer to own him was Bill Rivers.

For seven years, he was locked away in a 5ft (1.5m) by 7ft (2.1m) cage at the Buckshire Corporation, a laboratory in Pennsylvania which leases out animals for scientific and cosmetic company tests. In May 1996, Oliver and 11 other chimps were retired from the laboratory. Although he had never been used in experiments, Oliver was in poor shape, with atrophied muscles and trembling limbs. His cage at Buckshire had been too small for him to stand vertically, but he was soon walking upright in his new home. All his teeth have been pulled and he has liver problems, possibly from drinking too much alcohol.

Wally Swett, director of Primarily Primates, says that his new celebrity guest is adapting well and, after years of isolation, has bonded with one little female. "He understands a lot and is quite cooperative."

SOURCES
FT17:11 (Aug 1976); FT91:47; *Houston (TX) Chronicle*, *Dallas (TX) Morning News*, 6 Oct; *D. Express*, 9 Nov 1996.

EXTRA! EXTRA!

FORTEAN HEADLINES FROM
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GOD 'THROWS DICE INTO BLACK HOLE'

D. Telegraph, 23 Nov 1995.

THREE WISE MEN REFUSED VISAS BY SAUDI ARABIA

Sunday Telegraph, 10 Dec 1995.

INDIA'S NUCLEAR YETI

Sunday Times of India, 24 Dec 1995.

PEACOCK PIPS ALIEN INVADERS

Independent on Sunday, 24 Dec 1995.

CHINA DRAG QUEENS HAVE OFFICIALS ON THEIR KNEES

Asian Age (New Delhi), 8 Jan 1996.

VAGINA MASSAGE MAN GETS THUMBS UP

Adelaide (Australia) Advertiser, 1989.

CRAZED ELEPHANT FOUND IN SEA

Irish Times, 13 Feb 1996.

Tee-rific coincidence

A WOMAN playing in a golf tournament lost the game but found a new family when she discovered her opponent was one of the brothers for whom she had been searching for years.

Tina Dixon, 39, was four when she was put up for adoption in 1961. Her two brothers were adopted by a different family. She knew that one kept his original name, Innes, while the other took that of his adoptive family, Brown, but she had never managed to trace them. On 30 October Mrs Dixon, a hairdresser from Stockfield,

Northumberland, entered a pairs competition at Slaley Hall golf course, near Hexham, with husband John. They were paired up with Mark Innes and Ron Wingfield. When Mrs Dixon pulled a shoulder muscle on the 10th tee it was suggested that she see Mark's brother, a physiotherapist.

When she learned that the brother's name was Kevin Brown, she realised that the two men were her brothers. At the 13th



FAMILY ALBUM: Tina Dixon reunited with her long-lost brothers Mark Innes and Kevin Brown

was: 'How are you doing then?' D. Mail, Times, D. Telegraph, 2 Nov 1996.

The hermits of suburbia

KAREN MORGAN (pictured below) lived "like a mediæval monk", retreating from the world into her bedroom for 14 years, increasingly obsessed by rituals that lasted hours. Her mother was ordered to follow some of the rituals, including having to wash herself repeatedly before delivering her daughter's food.

The Morgans lived in Erith, south-east London, from the early 1970s, and appeared to be an ordinary suburban family. Bob Morgan, 54, an unemployed tool setter, acted as a caller at a local bingo hall and his wife, Josie, 51, had a part-time job as a cleaner. From the age of 12, Karen had treatment for obsessive compulsive disorder at the Maudsley Hospital, south London, but was discharged as untreatable. Her parents decided to look after her at home.

She stripped her room of all comforts, removing the bed which reminded her of her stay in hospital, eventually living on bare boards. Her lavatory was a bucket which was emptied every few days. She went to school on-and-off until she was 15, then withdrew from the outside world. Bexley social services were told there was nothing they could do.

Her brother Russell also became a recluse in his bedroom, emerging only at night. Police found "pages and pages of notes" by Karen giving instructions to

her mother. For the last eight years, she had seen no-one but her mother. The whole family was evidently in thrall to Karen's every whim.

When she died on 30 April 1996 aged 29, her parents and brother tried to commit suicide. They spent 36 hours cleaning the house and writing suicide notes. They agreed that Russell should be the first to take an overdose of sleeping pills. He did so, but awoke next morning and asked his parents to call an ambulance. When it arrived, they told the crew their daughter was lying dead upstairs.

The autopsy showed the primary cause of death was bronchial pneumonia and the secondary was a malignant brain tumour. The tumour would not have affected her mental condition until the last months of her life. Her parents and brother were given psychiatric treatment and did not attend the inquest on 5 September.

Karen's case is not unique. Also in 1996, Desmond Lockwood died after having locked himself away for 30 years from the age of 19, when he lost his job. He lived on ice-cream and tea and stared endlessly at the TV in his bedroom. By the time he died, his parents were also dead and he was left living with his brother. Independent, Times, Guardian, 5 Sept; D. Telegraph, 6 Sept; Independent on Sunday, 8 Sept 1996.



hole she plucked up the courage to break the news to Mark, a 36-year-old father of two and the catering manager of a Tyneside hotel. Kevin Brown, 37, was telephoned from the clubhouse with the news and he immediately drove 50 miles (80km) to Slaley Hall from his home in North Shields. "I drove up there like a nutter," he said, "and the only thing I could think of saying

D. Mail, Times,

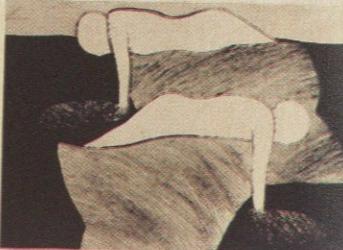
D. Telegraph, 2 Nov 1996.

Engravings foretell Estonia disaster

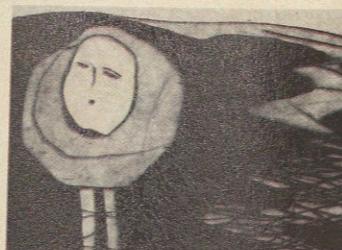
THE SWEDISH artist Catarina Burevik, 37, died on 28 September 1994 when the *Estonia* capsized during a storm in Finnish waters. In Europe's worst post-war maritime disaster, 852 people lost their lives. Burevik had been a recognised artist for 10 years, but it was only after her death that her family saw her last pictures. The 40 black-and-white copperplate

engravings were exhibited at the Raus gallery in Raa on the south-west coast of Sweden to mark the second anniversary of the disaster.

With titles such as *If we could only get there in time* and *The worst misfortune*, they depict people floating in water in lifejackets and washed-up bodies sprawled on rocks. *The European*, 17-23 Oct 1996.



The Worst Misfortune



If We Could Only Get There in Time

AB HELSINGBORGSBILD



subdued him and took him to hospital in a serious condition. Ogden (UT) Standard-Examiner, 3 May 1994.

HENRY H HEEPE, 50, of Akron, Ohio, told police he beat his 77-year-old mother Barbara to death and disembowelled her. On 7 November 1994 he was found naked, lying face down in bed, next to pieces of his mother's corpse as some of her body parts bubbled in a pot on the stove. Various bits of Mrs Heepe were missing and it was thought that her son had eaten them; his mouth was smeared with blood. "She was a vampire devil," he said. "I cut out both of her hearts. It took her five hours to die." He was taken to hospital for treatment of diabetes. Police said he had been unstable since his younger brother committed suicide in 1970. [AP] 10 Nov 1994.

RODNEY HINES, 36, stole the cremated remains of four people from urns in Chico Cemetery, California, and consumed them in hopes of attaining "everlasting life". He told police he snorted some of the ashes and sprinkled some on his food. [AP] 9 Sept 1995.

BOTH PICTURES BIG TILAK

Eating people is wrong

Most of us assume that cannibalism has largely died out, except for isolated outbreaks like those in parts of Guangxi province in southern China during the Cultural Revolution in 1967. This is not true, as shown by the cases in the former USSR [FT91:27] and this whistle-stop tour of the rest of the world

BELGIUM

GUILLAUME POTIEZ, 26, from Liège, confessed to strangling Philippe van der Straten-Waillet, 38, then cooking some flesh from his back in a frying pan and eating it. Potiez wanted to punish his friend for making light of the genocide in Rwanda. Born in Burundi, he said his cannibalism was "inspired by African rituals". [AP] 30 Dec 1994.

cooked it in palm butter. Then they ate it.

Dozens of Liberians in refugee camps outside Monrovia described similar acts of cannibalism, believed to endow those who partake with supernatural powers. One woman had seen young warriors of Alhaji GV Kromah's United Liberation Movement extract the hearts and private parts of five boys and eat them. *Observer*, 14 April 1996.

BRAZIL

LABOURER UBIRATAN Freire de Menezes, 22, from the south-eastern Brazilian city of Campinas, murdered mechanic Cicero Alves da Silva, cut out his liver and on 20 September 1994 took it to a bar to be cooked. "It was a bit tough and I had to let it fry for longer than usual," said Adivaldo dos Santos, 27, a son of the bar owner. "Then the meat started to dissolve. Normal liver doesn't melt." Ubiratan had told him it came from a goat, but his mother suspected it could be human. Nevertheless, eight customers unwittingly ate the liver with onions and garlic. *Folha de São Paulo*, 15 Dec; [R] 16 Dec 1994.

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PHILIPPINES

ON 26 MARCH 1994, Sandy Nunez, 22, attacked and wounded his pregnant sister and then poured petrol around the house in San Isidro, 50 miles north of Manila, warning neighbours that he would torch it if they came near. He then stabbed his 55-year-old mother and ate her heart and lungs, at which point the police arrived.

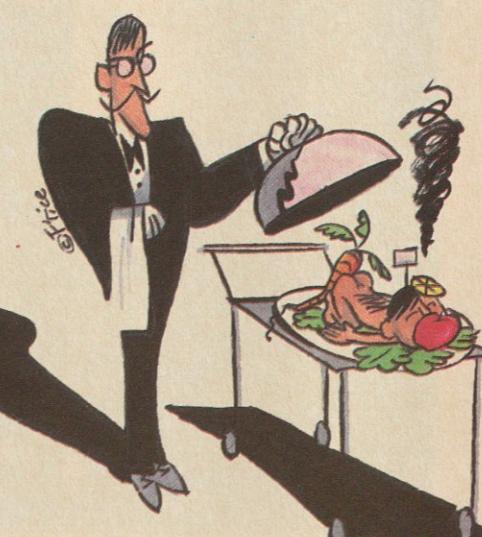
"He was apparently high on drugs," said a police spokesman. "He told us he wanted to be like Zuma [a comic-book character] who becomes irresistible to women after eating the internal organs of virgins." (Did he therefore regard himself as being immaculately conceived?).

While being taken to the police station, Nunez grabbed a policeman's gun, whereupon he was shot dead by another policeman. [R] 30 Mar 1994.

ZAMBIA

FILITA MALISHIPA, a woman in her late 60s from Solwezi in Zambia, turned herself in to the authorities and admitted murdering seven of her nine children and eating their flesh in black magic rituals inherited from her mother. She had done the killings with the aid of her husband, using a demon called Tuyobela. She claimed the power to be able to turn people into midgets. Among the charms displayed in court was an ointment which Malishipa said she applied to her feet to 'fly' to the capital Lusaka about (700km) from Solwezi to see one of her two remaining children. She was jailed for six months for witchcraft; but not charged with murder as this was considered too difficult to prove. [R, AFP, AP] 25 Mar 1995.

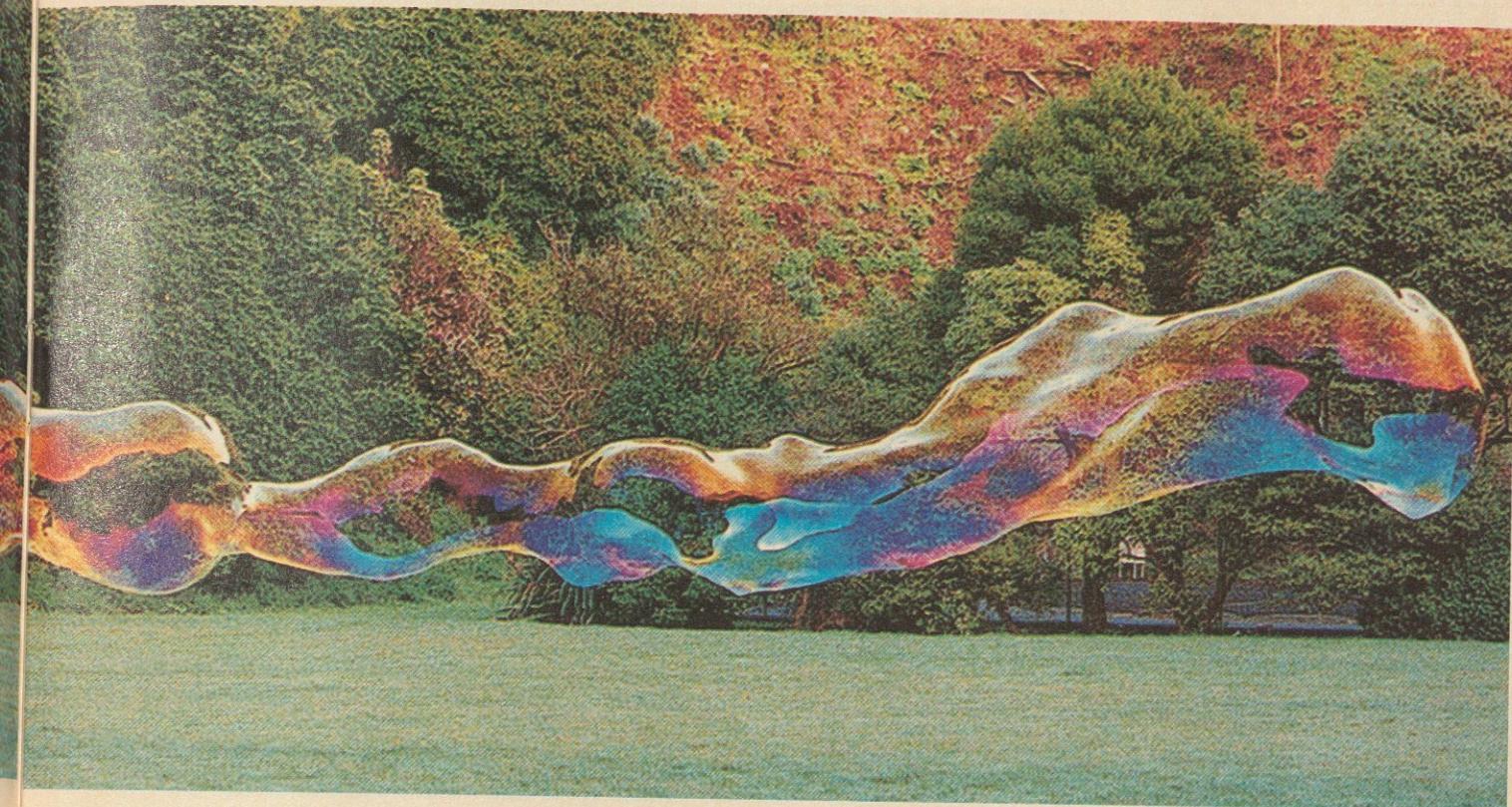
For further cannibals, see: FT58:24, 67:30, 69:47+48, 70:15, 74:48, 80:17.



Look at the size of it

ALAN MCKAY, 34, blew this 113ft (34m) bubble in Wellington, New Zealand, on 9 August. "The light breeze and damp air combined to create perfect bubble-blowing conditions," he said. "The air was moving at just the right speed to carry this tubular bubble but for me, but not enough to disrupt it." The previous record, listed in the *Guinness Book of Records*, is a 50ft (15m) bubble blown in New York City in 1988. *D. Mckay, 10 Aug 1996*

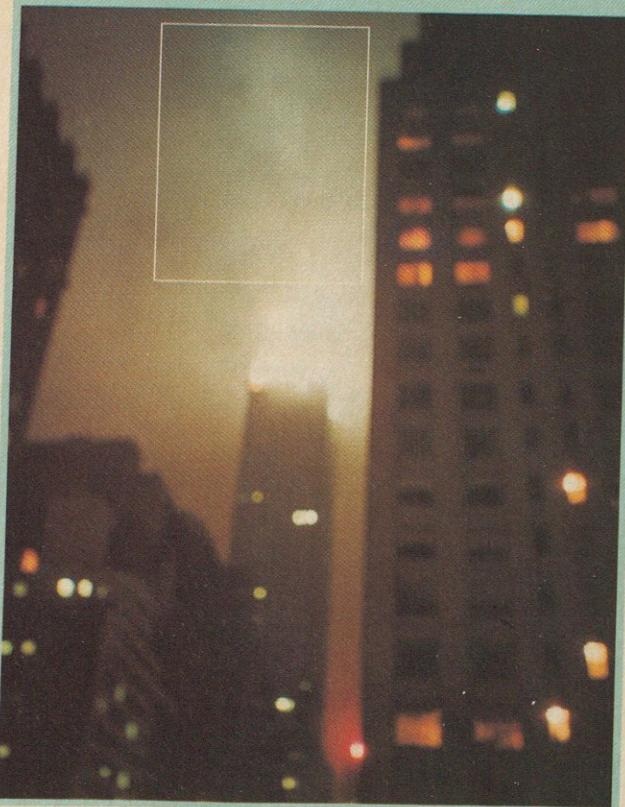
POPPERFOTO/REUTER



SIMULACRA CORNER

JAN PEARSON took this photograph of the Empire State Building through the window of a Park Avenue apartment on a misty evening in Manhattan. The face peering out from the clouds above the building is perhaps the ghost of King Kong.

WE ARE ALWAYS GLAD TO RECEIVE PICTURES OF SPONTANEOUS FORMS AND FIGURES, OR ANY CURIOUS IMAGES. SEND THEM TO THE EDITORIAL POST BOX AND WE'LL PAY A FIVER OR TEN DOLLARS FOR ANY WE USE.



Good month for monster hunters

On 13 September, staff and guests at the Corriegour Lodge Hotel overlooking Loch Lochy, north of Fort William in Scotland, watched a 12ft (3.6m) dark shape cause a disturbance on the water. "At first we thought it was an upturned rowing boat," said guest Lindsey Burton from Hornchurch, Essex. "Then it started moving backwards and round in circles and we saw that it had three humps."

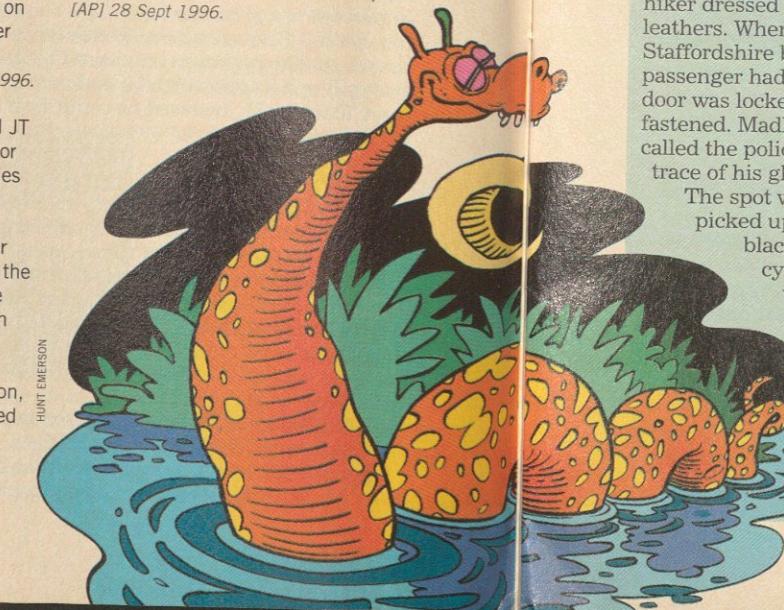
Catriona Allen, 21, a psychology student at Aberdeen University, viewed the creature, dubbed 'Lizzie', through binoculars. "I watched this dark shape, with a curved head and a long body, keep turning round and whipping about on the loch's surface," she said. "It was moving like no other marine animal I've seen and it certainly wasn't a seal, otter, porpoise or dolphin."

In July 1960 there were reports on Loch Lochy of a creature similar to Nessie, and evidence of a creature on the 10-mile (16km) stretch of water was gathered in 1933 by monks at Fort Augustus. *Sunday Post, 15 Sept 1996*

LAST JUNE, fishermen Gary Hall and JT Pinney, on the *Mad Monk*, fishing for monkfish near Block Island, 14 miles (22km) off the Rhode Island coast, hauled in a 13ft (4m) serpentine carcass. They displayed the peculiar catch on the stone breakwater near the docks for the Point Judith ferry. The spine stretched longer than two men and was attached to a narrow head with vacant eye sockets and weird whiskers. Some said it was a sturgeon, or a shark, or a ray; others nicknamed it the Block Ness Monster.

There was a stream of curiosity-seekers for two days and then New

York state park biologist Lee Scott took the carcass to his island summer home and put it in his freezer to preserve it. He noted the creature's snout measure 12in (30cm), twice the average snout size on a basking shark. He planned to ship it to the mainland for examination at the National Marine Fisheries Service in Narragansett. Gary Hall, the fisherman who pulled it up, planned to pick up the creature and put it on the ferry. He went fishing for the day and when he called round at Scott's place, the carcass had disappeared. Its anonymous "kidnappers" rang to say they were worried the creature would be shipped off the island and never returned. Others said the disappearance was staged to create a tourist attraction. People certainly seem willing to part with \$18 for the Block Ness Monster T-shirts that appeared in the island's three shops. *AP/28 Sept 1996*



Chillers on the road

A RESIDENT of Jenin, an Arab town in Israel, driving one evening towards Dotan, stopped to pick up a hitch-hiker, who got in the front seat beside him. After a while, the driver noticed that the face of his passenger had changed into that of a one-eyed dog. Stopping the car, he ran away and fainted after observing the strange figure leaving the area.

The event stirred up much debate in Jenin and neighbouring towns. Some mullahs maintained that the creature was a demon, while others said that it was "the blind liar", a figure who is supposed to be committing evil acts before the coming of the messiah. At the time of the report, the driver was still in shock, hospitalised in Jenin. *Daily Ma'ariv (Israel), 14 Oct 1996*

TREVOR MADLINE from Derby stopped on the A51 near Wybunbury on Sunday morning, 20 October, to pick up a hitch-hiker dressed in vintage motorcycle leathers. When Mr Madline reached the Staffordshire border, he noticed that his passenger had vanished although the car door was locked and the seat belt still fastened. Madline was so startled that he called the police, but they could find no trace of his ghostly passenger.

The spot where the latter had been picked up was close to an accident black spot where several motorcyclists had been killed over the years. The incident also happened to coincide with a vintage motorcycle show that was being held in Crewe by the Edge and District Motorcycle Club. *Nantwich Chronicle, 23 Oct 1996*

Queer jelly found after UFO sightings

OVER THE weekend of 2/3 November, the Australian UFO hotline received more calls from Tasmania than it had in the previous four years. The culmination was a report by Marlene Smith, who woke up on 3 November to find blobs on the concrete in front of her house in Kempton, about 25 miles (40km) north of Hobart. "It was queer stuff, white/clear jelly, oodles of it," Smith said. "I've lived here for 56 years and I've never seen anything like it. We could have got a bucket of it." The slime, which sounds like the *pudr sér* (literally "rot of the stars") occasionally observed at the time of meteorite falls, came after a night of thunderstorms which had been preceded by a ball of yellowish fire falling from the night sky witnessed by Marlene's husband Barry. More jelly was found by a Kempton farmer in one of his paddocks.

A sample of the jelly was found to contain micro-organisms, according to Ross Dowe of the National UFO Reporting Service. He suggested that the jelly was fish eggs or baby jellyfish. Kempton is about 40 miles (64km) inland, but Mr Dowe said there had been several falls of fish eggs in the desert, including three in recent years. In certain conditions, he maintained, a cloud can suck up fish eggs or similar objects from the sea and later release its rain and eggs inland. He also suggested that trout farms or other aquaculture industries could have been the source of the Kempton jelly.

"For the quantity of material, it's surprising the quantity of life it contains," he said. "We have photoscans of droplets of water with tubular-type microbes contained in the droplet." But the centre had only limited facilities, and planned to make the samples available for further analysis. "We can't identify it, so we want

to pass it on to groups who can," said Mr Dowe, who can be contacted by e-mail for photoscans at rossdowen.netlink.net.au. The service expects to establish an internet home page this month with the address <http://www.ufocom.au>

Shropshire Star, 4 Nov; [AAP] 7 Nov 1996.



"THERE'S SOMETHING YOU WON'T SEE AGAIN IN A HURRY"

MEDICAL BAG



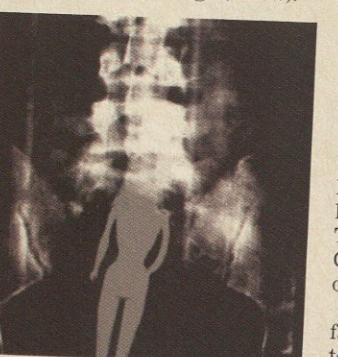
This month's Hippocratic hiccups include a man who snacks on stones and a man with a Barbie doll stuck up his bum

NICE DAY AT THE ORIFICE, DEAR?

THERE WERE great hopes that the internet would become a worldwide teaching tool, lifting human-kind to new heights of knowledge and expertise, writes **Richard Gwynn-Seary**. But what we have, among other things - is a new vehicle for pseudo-medical voyeurism.

One such site is the self-explanatory 'Rectal Foreign Bodies'. Face masks and vomit bags are recommended for visitors. Each and every one of the 182 cases of 'foreign objects' paraded at this site necessitated medical intervention and surgical removal.

The story - in chapter 17 of the *FT Book of Weird Sex* - of the US soldier who gets his kicks by swallowing the heads of Barbie dolls at the point of climax, only to re-use them after they have passed through and had a good boiling, pales into insignificance when compared to the X-ray film of a complete Barbie doll stuck in some odd person's back passage (below).



This is just one of many curiosities on display in this digital museum. Other items found where the sun doesn't shine include a rolled-up magazine, various vegetables, a jeweller's saw, assorted frozen animal parts and... a human hand and forearm. One supposes that this limb was the result of some esoteric yoga practise, rather than belonging to another person

THE MYSTERY OF MR SMELLY

A 30-YEAR-OLD man from Cardiff, who worked in a factory dressing chickens, pricked his finger on a bone in September 1991. The tiny scratch became inflamed and his GP, having identified cellulitis (a simple bacterial infection), prescribed antibiotics. The infection did not clear up and the finger began to emit a putrid odour. The inflammation then went down, but the smell became much worse and spread to his whole body.

A skin biopsy revealed *clostridia*, a spore form of bacteria found in soil and the intestinal tracts of humans and animals. It is also responsible for causing gangrene in deep wounds and can result in death - but has not before been found on the skin. *Clostridia* are usually sensitive to antibiotics, but every kind of antibiotic was tried without success: the pong could not be budged. Equally ineffectual was dressing the man in a charcoal-lined jacket, like a giant Odour-eater. The case was written up in *The Lancet* in November 1996 in the hope that an expert somewhere will be able to help resolve the mystery.

The unfortunate man is a virtual prisoner in his parents' home; the overpowering odour makes people recoil. "It is a smell so putrid it is like going into a pantry and finding food that should have been thrown out a long time ago," said Dr Peter Holt, consultant dermatologist at the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff. *Sunday Telegraph*, 10 Nov 1996.

MAGNETIC CURE

MAGNETS MAY be able to replace more radical treatment for depression, such as electro-convulsive shocks. Alvaro Pascual-Leone and colleagues at the University of Valencia in Spain have employed a method known as transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) on some 17 patients with severe drug-resistant depression.

"Eleven of the 17 patients showed pronounced improvement that lasted for about two weeks after five days of daily TMS sessions," they wrote in *The Lancet*. "No patient experienced any undesirable side-effects." The patients did not respond when the magnets were slightly displaced so that no magnetic effect was exerted on the brain.

"TMS has advantages over electroconvulsive therapy," said the report. "It is practically painless, does not require anaesthesia, is not coupled with induction of a seizure, and has



UNBALANCED DIET: Asa gets his minerals

THE PEBBLE EATER

ARIF ASA, 52, a farmer from Keles near Bursa in Turkey, lost his left arm in an accident when he was 12 years old. Suffering from depression, he began eating a dishful of pebbles every day. The strange habit had not apparently affected his health; indeed he claimed that he would become ill if he did not eat the pebbles. Doctors warned him he ran the risk of blocking his intestines. *Hurriyet (Turkey)*, 6 July 1991. (For the 17th century pebble-eater Francis Battalia, see FT45:38.)

fewer risks and cognitive side-effects." [R] 25 July 1996.

SIMPLE REMEDIES

A CHANCE remark by a patient led Dr Manohar Keswani, head of the burns department at Wadia Hospital for Children in Bombay, India, to discover that potato peelings enhanced the healing of serious burns without sticking to the wound. Over eight years, he has gone on to develop the potato equivalent of a skin graft. "It allows wounds to heal much quicker than usual," he said. "It is a breakthrough and has saved lives," said the president of the British Burn Association.

Crab dung mixed with salt water or blood hardens to form a bone-like substance ideal for knitting together broken bones. It is far more effective in mending limbs than current solutions like metal or plastic inserts. Researchers at Reading University stumbled on the discovery while studying the effects of pollution on marine life. *Sunday Telegraph*, 4 Feb; *D.Mail*, 22 Jan 1996.



Giant steps: The only known stegosaurus print that thieves hacked from the rock north of Broome, Western Australia, using power tools

Jurassic footpads

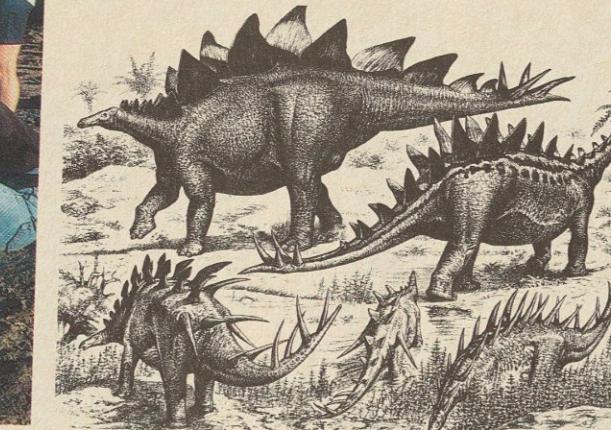
THIEVES USED power tools to steal the world's only known stegosaurus footprints from a coastal sandstone platform 20 miles (32km) north of Broome in Western Australia. The stegosaurus, a 30ft (9m)-tall herbivore distinguished by a double row of spikes along its spine, flourished during the Jurassic period, more than 130 million years



ONE OF OUR DINOSAUR PRINTS IS MISSING: Scientists measure one of the stegosaurus prints before it was stolen. [right] when dinosaurs roamed the Earth

ago. The prints were an important link in the chain of evidence suggesting the existence of the prehistoric super-continent of Gondwana, comprising present-day Antarctica, Australia, India, Africa and South America. Until the discovery of the footprints seven years ago, the stegosaurus was thought to have been confined to the northern hemisphere.

Local Aborigines, who believe that the four footprints belong to a mythical creature from their 'dreamtime', are upset by the theft. The site is a male ceremonial area, used for initiations and other rites barred to women. It forms part of an important 'song line' and was registered as a sacred site under State legislation in 1989. Joseph Rowe, Aboriginal custodian of the fossils, claimed the theft could bring bad



Elvis lives, say 1 in 10

A RANDOM telephone survey of 800 American adults on 28/29 September, summarised in December's *George* magazine, showed that more than half believe there is life on other planets; 78 per cent said they believed in angels, 30 per cent in reincarnation and 29 per cent in witchcraft. Ten per cent believed Elvis Presley was still alive. Asked

if the US government is currently involved in conspiracies and coverups, 74 per cent said yes and 19 per cent said no; 41 per cent believed the government was covering up the truth about TWA Flight 800, which exploded and crashed off Long Island on 17 July, killing all 230 people on board. No cause has yet been determined. The poll's margin of error was plus or minus 3.5 per cent. [R] 12 Nov 1996.

Ghoul dogs panic Egypt

LAST AUTUMN, unidentified animals, resembling wild hyenas or wild dogs, killed three people and injured dozens in a series of nocturnal attacks lasting several weeks around the Egyptian town of Armant, 300 miles (482km) south of Cairo. Local people called them *salaawa*, the colloquial term for a female ghoul; one theory is that they have recently

luck. "Whoever's responsible for stealing the rock could fall ill and as custodian I'm at risk myself," he said. "It's a real worry. If [the thief] comes to face me I will put a spear through him and finish him."

The theft came only weeks after the world's oldest rock carvings, possibly 176,000 years old, were found in Australia's Northern Territory. [AP] 15 Oct; *Times*, *Guardian*, *The Australian*, 16 Oct 1996.

Far-east fossil felony

WHEREVER FOSSILS are found, there is a pipeline to the worldwide black market. Recently, in China's Guizhou province, police seized 1,100 undeclared animal fossils, presumed stolen and destined for export. *China Daily* said scientists could identify only 359 of the fossils.

Writing in the *Hong Kong Standard*, Patrick McDowell offers an insight into the trade in 'dinosaur bones' throughout the Orient, where they are believed to contain powerful medicinal and magical properties by virtue of their antiquity.

Since the discovery, 15 years ago, of a rich source of mesozoic fossils on the Korat Plateau in Thailand, the Phu Wiang National Park has become a major tourist magnet and many go away with souvenirs. Villages now trade in fossils and monks are hired to locate 'dinosaurs' using a combination of meditation and remote viewing. Sathathorn Polandlam, one of many rangers hired to reduce the number of thefts, said: "People think that if they carve a Buddha image from a bone, they can't be wounded."

McDowell found that a local Buddhist monastery - which has its own dig site with six sauropod skeletons - had developed its own deterrent: displaying letters of

reproach from thieves who have suffered nothing but bad luck after their charms backfired. Here, one reads a family's complaint that they all fell ill after drinking powdered dinosaur soup; and there is also a monk, who stole a bone to improve his oratory, but ended up paralysed instead.

Pride of place, however, goes to a display of three fragments and a confession that since he stole them on 14 December 1994, the writer has endured endless bad luck including bankruptcy and the loss of his family business. *South China Morning Post*, 10 July; *Hong Kong Standard*, 2 Aug 1996.

migrated north from Sudan in search of food. The police and local people with gun licences set up ambushes around the town. One group succeeded in wounding and capturing one of the animals as it tried to leave farmland. Another group managed to shoot one of them dead.

The wounded animal was sent to the veterinary unit in Armant for examination and, one hopes, identification. [R] 9 Oct 1996.

WHEN SHARON R LOPATKA left her home in Hampstead, Maryland, on 13 October, she wrote a note for her husband saying she was going to visit friends in Georgia and would not be coming back. "If my body is never retrieved, don't worry, know that I'm at peace," she wrote. She also asked him not to go after her attacker. In the event, Lopatka took a 300 mile bus ride to North Carolina, where she expected to be sexually tortured and killed by a man with whom she had corresponded over the internet.

Apparently, she got her wish. Her body was found in a shallow grave in late October behind a mobile home in Collettsville. The autopsy showed she had been strangled about 16 October. The home's owner, Robert Glass, was charged with first-degree murder. Messages from Glass, recovered from Lopatka's home computer, indicate that she travelled to North Carolina knowing what awaited her. Lopatka, 35, operated three World Wide Web pages. One offered to write classified advertisements, while the other two, advertising psychic hot lines, were entitled

'Psychics Know All', and 'Dionne Enterprises'. A friend described her as happily married and sensible. Glass, 45, a father of three who separated from his wife earlier this year, worked as a computer programmer for the county for nearly 16 years. The two first came in contact over the Internet.

Lopatka's husband reported her missing on 20 October and police discovered the e-mail messages from Glass despite his attempt to have her erase the files. Messages from 'slowhand' - Glass' apparent Internet alias - "described in detail how he was going to sexually torture... and ultimately kill her", an affidavit told. [AP] 29 Oct 1996.

TIM NICHOLSON, 32, Editor of the men's magazine *Arena*, threw himself to his death from a cliff at Saltdean, near Brighton, because he disagreed with editorial decisions forced on him in his latest issue. Police found a suicide note at the top of the cliff and a copy of the magazine with savage crossings-out. *Times*, 31 Oct 1996.

A PEASANT WOMAN, boiling plums to make brandy in the Romanian village of Ruginasa, died when the flames under her still set off a buried World War II shell. The woman's daughter was badly injured in the explosion. *Nottingham Eve Post*, 8 Aug 1996.

GEFF COUPLAND

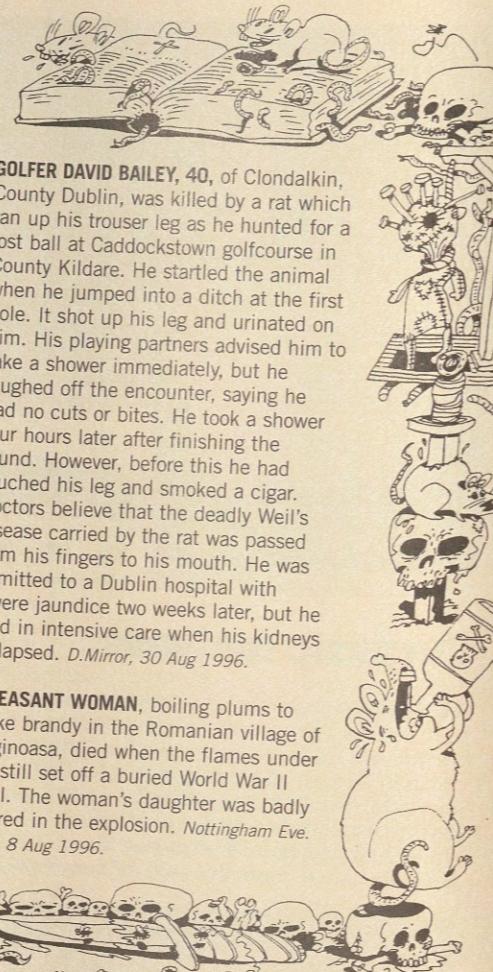
TALES FROM BEYOND

PART 4

A SELF-PROFESSSED ALIEN IS BEING INTERROGATED...



STRANGE DEATHS



"The best night's sleep I've ever had"



"I didn't know that my husband had a Max until I told him how well I had been sleeping recently. It was a revelation. My sleep transformation coincided with the arrival of my husband's Max."

Mrs S Douglas, Wife and mother of two teenagers, London

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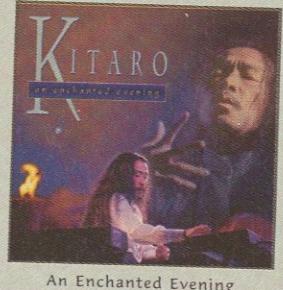
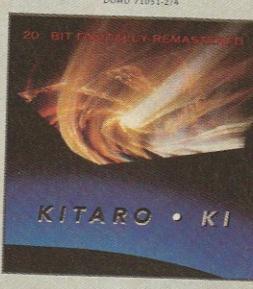
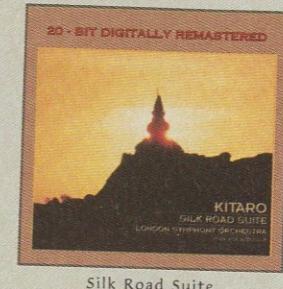
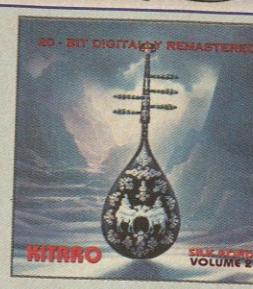
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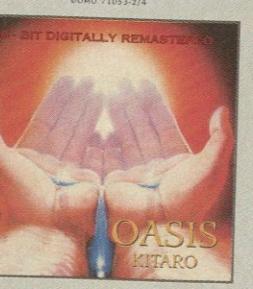
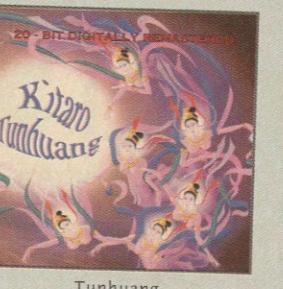
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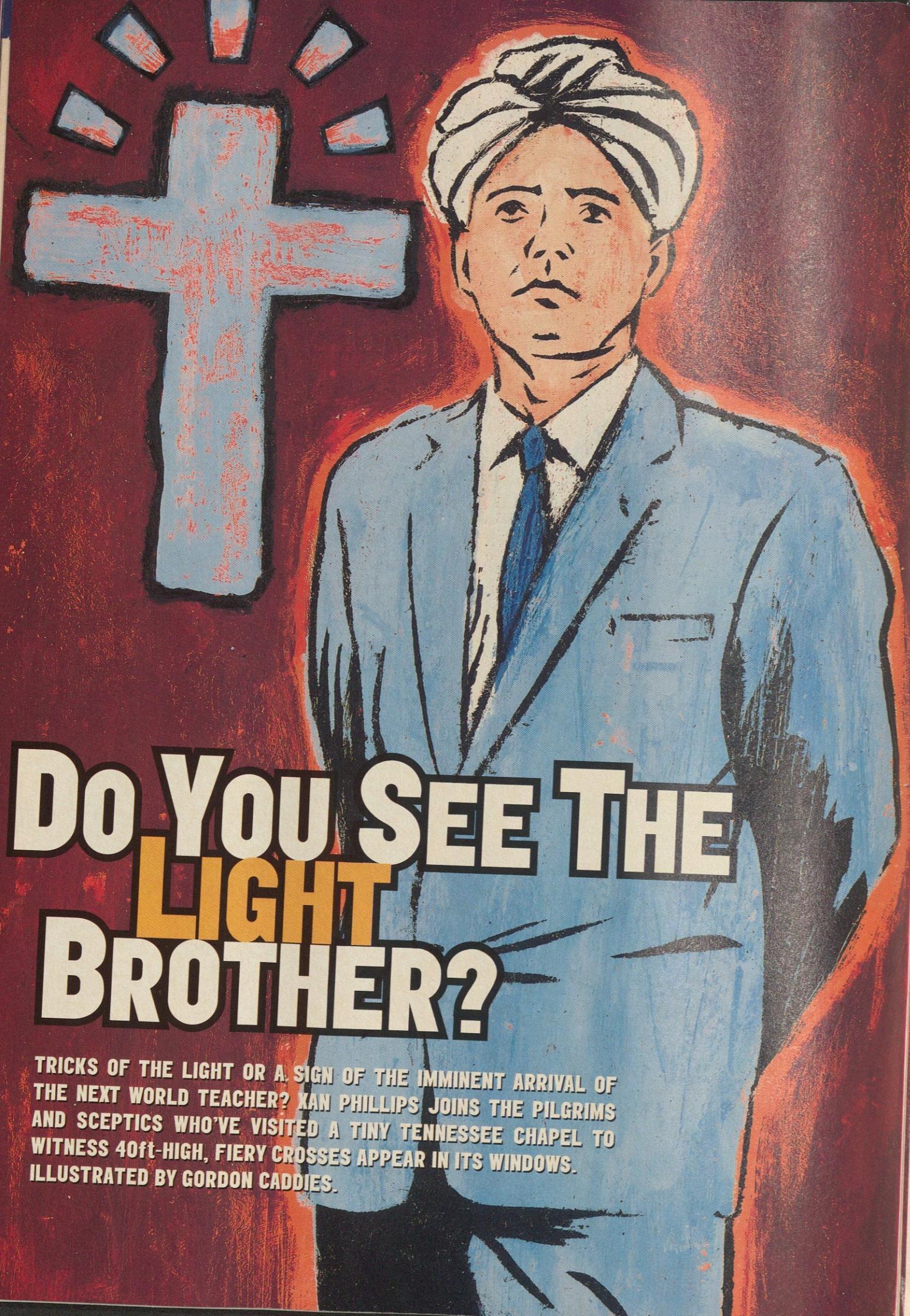
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Do You See The Light Brother?

TRICKS OF THE LIGHT OR A SIGN OF THE IMMINENT ARRIVAL OF THE NEXT WORLD TEACHER? XAN PHILLIPS JOINS THE PILGRIMS AND SCEPTICS WHO'VE VISITED A TINY TENNESSEE CHAPEL TO WITNESS 40ft-HIGH, FIERY CROSSES APPEAR IN ITS WINDOWS. ILLUSTRATED BY GORDON CADDIES.



This is how Reverend Joe Bullard recalls it beginning: "I'd been in the ministry for 51 years and had taken on this small church part-time. One evening last November, my wife Mildred and I drove by this lovely church as we thought about giving it up. We stopped the car in amazement as a radiant white light seemed to surround the entire building for a short time. We went home wondering what that meant. Could this be a sign that we should stay? We didn't have to wait long for the answer. The next time I spoke to the congregation, on 8 November 1995, a bright light hit the side of the church and, as we looked out of the window, we saw our first cross of light. We could hardly believe it, but as they continue to appear we know they are real."

For 135 years the Copper Ridge Baptist church, 12 miles north-east of Knoxville, Tennessee, was quite unremarkable. It seated 60 and had an irregular congregation of about 14. In November 1995, crosses of light created an explosion of interest, since when at least 44,000 people have signed its visitors' book. Bullard calls it a "beautiful mystery".

As news of the luminous apparitions spread, the congregation and the stream of sightseers swelled. On 5 January 1996, the story was featured in a news bulletin on CBS-TV. Watching the report was Buddy Piper, a man with a special interest in 'luminous cross' stories. "As the small church appeared on the television screen," says Piper, "it seemed to be on fire as a glowing cross shone from each of its five windows."

Piper retired from a 50-year broadcasting career to devote his time to investigating the mystery of 'crosses of light' and, with help from a network of volunteers since May 1988, has followed up similar stories across the United States and around the world. He is convinced that these crosses are 'signs', placed by a person called Maitreya, to alert the world to the profound changes upon us.

Maitreya, Piper believes, is the One that all religions are waiting for: Christ for Christians; Buddha for Buddhists; the Imam Madhi for Moslems; the Messiah for Jews; Krishna for Hindus and for those of no particular religion the World Teacher. He came to this conclusion after reading Benjamin Creme's *The Reappearance of the Christ and the Masters of Wisdom* (1981) and the statement in a 1988 edition of *Share International* (a periodical edited and published by Benjamin Creme) that 'crosses of light' would appear in windows all over the world. Through his radio and television interviews, in which he explains why and where he thinks these crosses come from, Piper has become known as the 'Cross Chaser'.

Immediately after watching the CBS report, Piper contacted Bullard. "I had never heard of a group of crosses appearing in a church. They generally appear in the homes of poor people, shining in a bathroom window. I believed this tiny church might offer an ideal opportunity to put Maitreya's story before the entire United States," said Piper.

He was equally impressed by Bullard's openness and honesty when the pastor said: "I don't know what to say about these crosses. I can hardly keep from believing it's a miracle!" Although Bullard had not heard of Maitreya, he gave Piper permission to publicise the phenomenon. "I contacted every newspaper,

television and radio station in the Knoxville area," said Piper, "and experienced stiff resistance to covering the story. However, they said they would think about it. The largest local radio station contacted me and said they had visited the church, seen the crosses and were fascinated by them."

When Piper phoned Bullard to tell him of the station's proposal for a live debate, Bullard revealed further stories of even stranger events at Copper Ridge. Bullard told him: "One night, before people came to see the crosses, we were sitting on one side of the church when several of us saw a tall, fully formed man wearing a turban appear on the opposite side of the church and walk slowly forward next to the wall. Two other people with a cloudy appearance materialised and followed him. Every couple of steps the last person in line turned slightly towards us and waved in a friendly manner. When they reached the front of the church, they turned around. We expected to see the two followers leading the way back, but the turbaned man was in front and the others followed, as before. They made the walk three times, then disappeared. That caught the attention of some of our members. They are still telling everyone about it!"

Another time, said Bullard, he was on his way to bed when "a small cross appeared in my room and I heard a voice say:

'Keep those church doors open and it won't be long till I (or we) will be back.'

I said: 'Who are you?' Then the cross and the voice disappeared.

For a minute I thought I was losing my mind."

Piper drove to Knoxville to see the crosses for himself and was struck by their effect on people. "Children and adults alike were glowing with joy at the phenomenon they experienced there. I was astonished by the size and beauty of the crosses, which appear as you look out of the church windows at night."

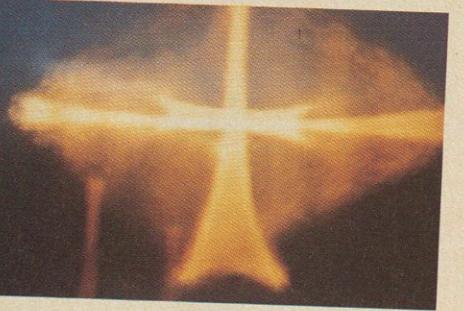
The crosses appear to be outside the church. Piper claims that the "fiery crosses appeared 30 yards (27m) from the church, rising 40ft (12m) into the air". Photographer Ruth Donovan said: "As you move closer [to the windows] the crosses shrink; the further away you go, the larger they get. Also, as you move, the crosses move with you. A light source is needed, either sunlight or street lights, for the crosses to appear. The crosses glow and as it gets darker outside the more golden they appear."

Some people see more than just crosses: children and their mothers have said that when sunlight hits at the right angle they can see "baby angels playing on the grass outside". One child rushed over to a front window and claimed: "Sometimes a baby sits here in the window, but it goes away if you try and touch it. Look on the window! You can see its bare footprints." Piper says that he could see these prints and a woman who washes the windows claims that the marks won't come out.

As well as the 'angels' and 'footprints', the name 'Jesus' can be seen in one of the windows. According to Bullard: "It doesn't always happen but, when the crosses appear, you can sometimes see stairs ascending from the ground to one of the arms. I don't know why, but it's pretty." Once, 20 years ago, Bullard said, two broken panes of glass were replaced, yet the crosses still appeared. "The man who



CROSS FIRE: [From the top] Copper Ridge Baptist Church, Tennessee; Two crosses appear in the windows; Rev Joe Bullard displays a collection of photos of the crosses in the church



put this glass in is a member of the congregation and he cannot explain how these crosses occur."

There have also been claims of miraculous healing at the church. According to Bullard, 82 marriages on the point of failing were saved when the couples patched up their differences after seeing the crosses. At least two people with poor eyesight (one of them virtually blind) and two deaf children have attributed the restoration of their senses to the phenomenon. During a visit to a Knoxville grocery store, the children are said to have seen "a tall man wearing a nice light suit and a wonderful smile" who predicted they would be cured at "the church in Knoxville with the crosses of light". The mother asked the children in sign language who that man was. The children answered: "That was an angel, mother." She turned to talk with the man, but he had disappeared. Bullard invited the woman to bring her children to the church. As soon as they were in the front of the church, one started excitedly signing and pointing out of the window. The mother said: "He says Jesus is just outside that window. Now he says Jesus has come into the room and is walking down the stairs and he is going to follow him." The congregation followed mother and child down the stairs and watched while the child signed to everyone that Jesus was standing there, but no one else could see him. Two weeks later both children could hear just enough to be aggravated that they couldn't hear more.

On 28 May 1996, Piper and Bullard were interviewed by Hallerin Hill, who had not seen the crosses, on WIVK Talk Radio in Knoxville. Hill was sceptical and could see no reason to go and view the crosses, but then he heard from Mark Baker, an ex-motorcycle gang member and former cocaine addict who claims that he lost all craving for the drug when he saw the crosses for the first time.

Baker said he had been sceptical when he gave his wife a lift to the church. He went inside to see what the fuss was about and "something had gotten a hold" of him. This was confirmed by a friend of Mark's who called the show to say how much Mark had changed. "He was a druggie... a drunk... I've drunk a lot of beer with him and everything. When he went to that church and seen them crosses, he changed! I watch him every day. He always had a frown on his face. He was always hunting a joint. And now he's always got a smile on his face."

Hill says that he is a 'believer' now, but feels that the "significance is not in the cross". Mark Baker agrees: "These crosses are beautiful, the crosses are getting people there, but the crosses didn't save me, brother. It was what got hold of me inside that church. A lot of



"THESE CROSSES ARE BEAUTIFUL, BUT THEY DID NOT SAVE ME. IT WAS WHAT GOT HOLD OF ME INSIDE THAT CHURCH"

people say 'Why can't I see this outside?' If I had been able to take my wife up there in my car, pulled her up in the parking lot, let her see what was going on at this church, I would have just turned around and gone. I would never have gone inside that church."

Hill wanted to know where the crosses came from and what they meant. Bullard replied: "If you can't accept the image of the window as a miracle from God, perhaps you can think of it being a sign, similar to a parable. Remember a parable is a story told to illustrate and symbolise a truth to be considered."

Piper still believes that the crosses are put there by Maitreya - who, according to Benjamin Creme, is also responsible for the milk drinking statues found in Hindu temples during 1995 [see *FT84:16*]; the worldwide occurrence of bleeding and weeping statues of the Blessed Virgin Mary [see *FT84:18*]; the healing waters of Tlacote (Mexico) and Nordineau (Germany) and the ubiquitous tales of a disappearing hitch-hiker.

These crosses were first reported in Louisiana (May 1988), El Monte, Southern California (May 1988), the Philippines (Nov 1991) and most recently in Hungary (June 1996). One caller to Hill's radio show warned that these crosses were part of the prediction stated in Matthew 24, that there will arise false prophets who will show signs of wonder that will deceive the elect.

Bullard's response was simple: "Believe what you want to believe about these crosses. There's no argument from me, because I know what I believe about them."

One man was convinced the crosses were a fraud. He told them he would prove it and then name Joe and the church members in a law suit to prove his point publicly. This man was invited in and asked to make up his own mind about what he saw. As the visitor looked up at the crosses, a huge ball of fire came out of one of them, through the window and hit this person, knocking him to the floor. People thought he was dead. But the visitor was not hurt and was so convinced of the crosses' authenticity that he had himself baptised.

Bullard says that you have to go to Copper Ridge and see the crosses to appreciate the true effect. Bob Hurley, columnist from *The Greenville Sun*, did just that. He wrote: "I can't get the hair on the back of my neck to do anything but stick straight out these days. The crosses are indeed in the windows at the Copper Ridge Baptist Church. That is a fact. It doesn't matter if you believe it or not. I was a bit sceptical myself, but now I've seen the crosses of Copper Ridge with these two eyes, I'm a believer."

SOURCES
Share International Vol. 15, No. 6 and No. 7. *The Hallerin Hill Show*. News Talk Radio 990 WIVK, Knoxville, Tennessee.

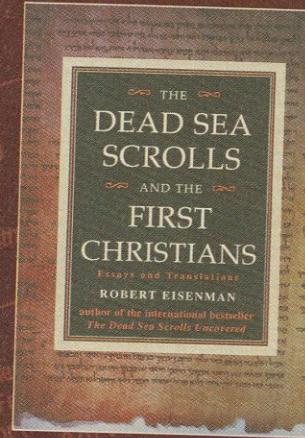
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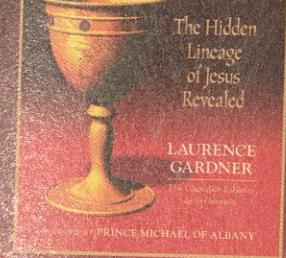


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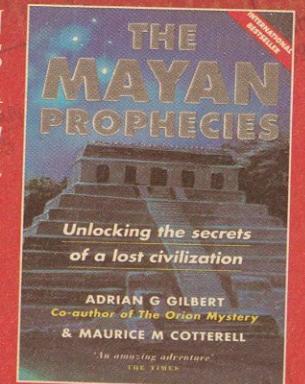
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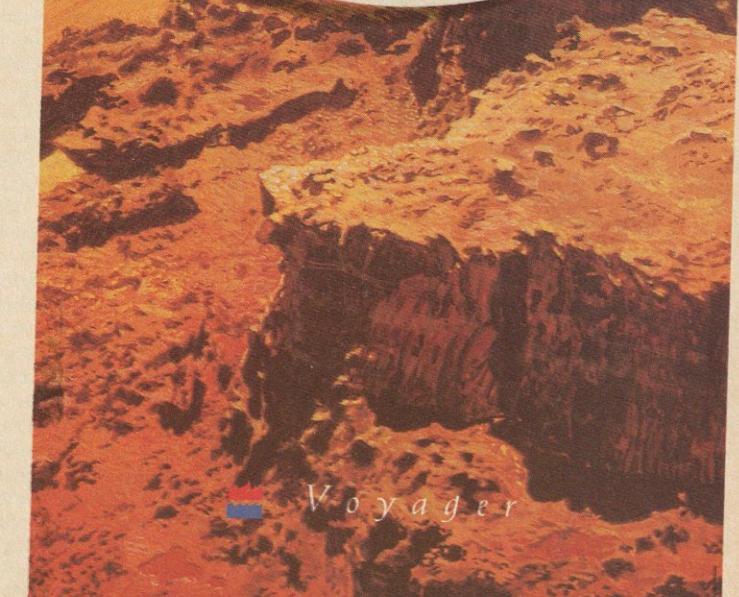


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BONES OF

AS TWO BITTER DISPUTES OVER LONG-DEAD BODIES REKINDLE THE INTEREST IN EARLY AMERICAN SETTLERS, **BOB RICKARD** STEPS INTO THE ARENA AND ASKS: "WHO WERE THE FIRST AMERICANS?"

Once upon a time, the pre-history of the North American continent was sewn up. There were no people in the Americas before the ancestors of the Amerindians migrated over the Bering Straits from Siberia, settled into different regions and developed distinct cultures. Nothing much else happened until white folks arrived. Now all that has given way to bitter disputes.

The first skirmish came in April last year, over the famous Spirit Cave mummy. Discovered in 1940, in a cave east of Carson City, Nevada, the mummified burial of a 40-year-old man was thought to be about 3,000 years old. New dating methods, carried out at the University of California Riverside, put his death at 9,415 years before the present (BP). It is now claimed to be the oldest naturally mummified body in North America - by comparison, the Alpine 'Ice Man' dates to about 5,300 years BP and there is a Peruvian mummy at least 10,000 years old.

Although features of the burial accord with what is known of Amerindian culture of the period, the original report describes the man's features as "different from modern American

Washington State, to examine a half-buried skeleton on a bank of the Columbia River. The remains had been found in July 1996 by two college students, apparently washed out of the ground by subsurface irrigation.

Chatters - a consultant anthropologist based in nearby Richland who is reconstructing the post-Ice Age ecology of the Columbia River basin - soon determined that the intact bones were not Amerindian. "I thought we had a pioneer," he told Timothy Egan of the *New York Times*. There was one curiosity: embedded in the man's pelvis was a worked stone point which Chatters recognised as a spear tip. The man had obviously survived a potentially fatal wounding - bone had regrown around the embedded tip - to die in middle-age of something else much later. What really jolted Chatters was that the type of spear was in use not a few hundred years ago but thousands of years ago. He sent a bone fragment to the University of California at Riverside for radiocarbon dating.

The results determined that the man had died 9,300 years ago - which puts him in the same timeframe as the Spirit Cave mummy - and the implications are dividing academic and cultural communities. For traditional anthropologists, the discovery of

"THIS IS A BATTLE OVER WHO CONTROLS AMERICA'S PAST"

- Robson Bonnichsen, Oregon State University

SKULDUGGERY: James Chatters, the first to examine the remains of Kennewick Man, inspects a slide of an ancient skull

Indians". In particular he had a small face and a long cranium. He appears to be "more closely related to south-east Asian peoples," said Amy Dansie of the Nevada State Museum and current custodian of the remains.

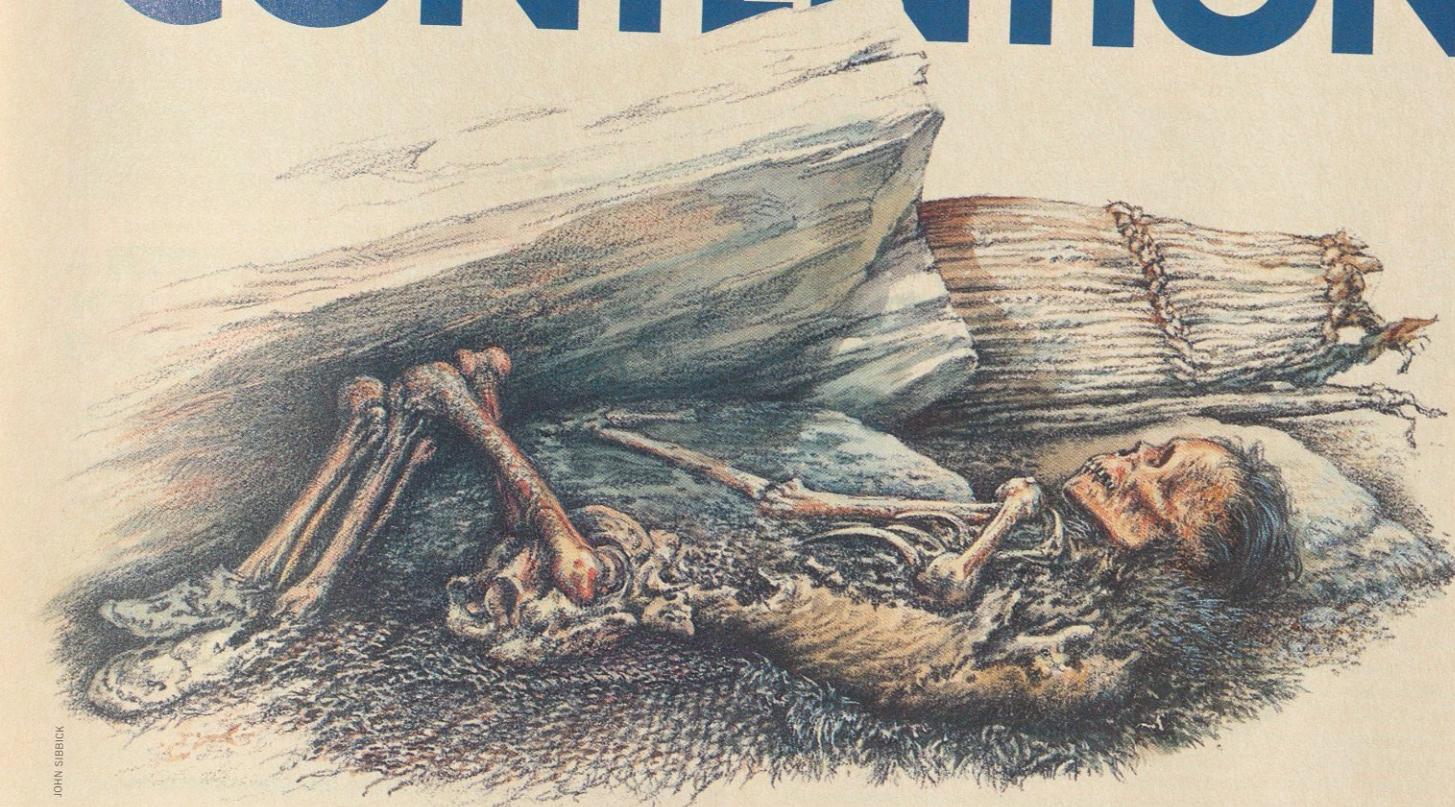
The Paiute Indians, whose lands are close to Spirit Cave, have demanded the body for burial. "We believe this is an ancestor of the Northern Paiutes," said a spokesman for that tribe; however, the Fallon Paiute Shoshone tribe also lay claim to the body. "There is no practical possibility that he is the lineal genetic ancestor of any contemporary Great Basin group," Dr James Adovasio, excavator of the Meadowcroft rock shelter (see panel), told the *Washington Post*. The case may well be referred to the courts to decide whether anthropologists have "the right to defy Native Americans' desire not to allow us to study people that are not demonstrably their ancestors," said Dansie.

Hot on the tail of the Spirit Cave affair, an eerily similar dispute erupted further northwest. It began when James Chatters was asked by the sheriff of Kennewick, in

a Caucasoid-type man in that time and place contradicts the usual view that only the descendants of the original Mongoloid (or northern Asian) migrants had settled there. "This was not a Caucasian as some papers reported," Chatters explained to me. "He has more in common with south-east Asian types, possibly even southern Indian or Ainu."

Chatters is one of the few people who have had the opportunity to see both Kennewick Man and the Spirit Cave mummy and he has noted their similarities. Other anthropologists, too, have noted, from time to time, anomalous bones with Caucasoid or southern Asian characteristics. "It's easy to overlook the fact that modern racial types did not necessarily exist ten thousand years ago. They were still forming," he said. Only DNA analysis could tell if these two skeletons were related in some way as their dates could well be contemporary within the margin of error for carbon dating. Perhaps these Caucasoid people had a loose culture that extended from Nevada to the Columbia River (perhaps 600 miles) that was overwhelmed by the newcomers? That territory

CONTENTION



I WANT MY MUMMY: The body of a 40-year-old man is, at 9,415 years, held to be the oldest natural mummy in North America and has sparked a fierce ownership row between scientists and the Paiute Indians

would include Idaho, where, says Chatters, remains found at Buhl and dated to around 10,700 BP are almost a female version of the Kennewick body. Perhaps they came along with the Mongoloids? A similar 16,000-year-old Caucasoid was found near Lake Baikal, he says, which would place it close to the origins of the migrations across Beringia (as the land bridge is sometimes called). "These discoveries will change the way we look at the prehistory of the Americas," Chatters told me.

The identification of the skull as Caucasoid was made by Catherine MacMillan - an emeritus professor at Central Washington University - who compared its features to more common paleo-Indian skulls of the so-called Clovis period. Where the paleo-Indian skulls had wide cheekbones, Kennewick Man had the typically narrow cheekbones of a Caucasian. As the skull was almost entirely intact, many other comparisons could be made. "My opinion remained the same: Caucasian male," she wrote to the Benton County coroner. "We have always used the term 'paleo-Indian,'" said Robson Bonnichsen - director of the Center for the Study of the First Americans at Oregon State University - "Maybe some of these guys were really just paleo-American."

The Umatillas are not impressed. They know the skeleton is of an ancestor because, said Minthorn: "These lands have been used by our tribe since time began. They can claim that this is a European, but they have no documentation of Europeans living here that goes back that far." In fact, the anthropologists have taken great care to distinguish between Europeans (western Caucasians, if you like) and the Caucasian stock that migrated eastwards to, and possibly beyond, central and southern Asia.

Archaeological evidence of early man in the Americas is extremely varied and tends to upset the picture of a smooth flow of migration from the northern land bridge southwards. I refer to the chaotic jumble of artefacts across both American continents: abundant evidence of man's presence in the Americas before the great Bering migrations

and possibly even before the Great Ice Age.

One such upset is a new model of the human settlement of the Americas proposed by Anna Roosevelt, an anthropologist associated with the University of Illinois and Chicago's Field Museum, in the April 1996 edition of *Science*. Miss Roosevelt's theory shifts the crucible of Amerindian civilisation from the northern plains to South America. Based on her studies of cave paintings in Brazil's Monte Alegre region and datings of cave debris, she believes that the sandstone caves were occupied by a culture of gatherers (not hunters) for 1,000 years, beginning around 13,000 BP - about 2,500 years before generally accepted dates of human settlements in South America. This puts them in the same timeframe as the Clovis people, a concurrence rejected by the establishment.

Orthodox anthropologists responded with severe criticism of Miss Roosevelt, the 50-year-old granddaughter of former US President Theodore Roosevelt, as letters appeared in scientific journals accusing her of "slovenly scholarship" and using her "patrician muscle" to promote her work. Betty Meggers, a senior American prehistorian from the Smithsonian Institution, deplored her lack of "corrective analysis". Thomas Dillehay, a paleo-Indian expert from the University of Kentucky, pointed out her sloppy archaeological techniques; while others questioned her presentation of radiocarbon dating results. Her defenders, in letters to top newspapers, have presented her as a kind of female Indiana Jones who has dared to embarrass the male-dominated old school with unpleasant new facts.

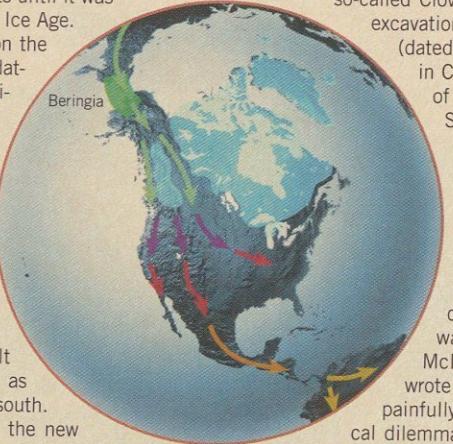
It is not clear how Miss Roosevelt thinks her first Americans - who would have to have been the forefathers of the early Andean civilisations - arrived in Amazonia or where they came from, but hers are by no

WALK THIS WAY

THE PLEISTOCENE ERA, during which *Homo sapiens* first appeared on Earth and spread out to most parts of it, spans some 2 million years. It ended about 10,000 years ago at the same time as the ending of the great Ice Age, which began around 100,000 years ago. The volumes of water frozen into the vast ice sheets actually lowered the sea level, revealing new lands between islands and continents and along coastal strips. There must have been many attempts over thousands of years to traverse the land bridge across the Bering Straits until it was shut off by rising sea levels at the end of the Ice Age. There are some signs of human habitation on the American side during the Ice Age, possibly dating back 30,000–100,000 years, but the evidence is scanty, often ambiguous and still in contention. During this period, these primitive small groups were very precarious and were finally cut off and probably extinguished by the onset of the great Ice Age.

Then, about 12,000 years ago, corridors opened up through the retreating Canadian ice sheet and by 11,320 Before Present (BP) fresh waves of Mongoloid hunter-gatherers began to flow through them into northern Canada. The idyllic environment they found fuelled a rapid expansion. It is generally believed that a massive overkill of game, as well as climate changes, forced groups ever further south. It is estimated that it took less than 200 years for the new Americans to settle all the way down to California and the Gulf of Mexico in the south and the Great Lakes to the east. By about 10,930 BP they had reached the Panama isthmus and by 10,500 BP could be found in isolated groups throughout South America.

The earliest generally accepted settlement on the American side of the Bering land bridge is in the Canadian province of Yukon and probably dates to 17,000 BP. Now, Jiri Chlachula, a Czech archaeologist working with colleagues from the University of Alberta, has found good evidence of a human habitation in the Canadian province of Alberta, which appears to be "at least" 20,000 years old, at least 8,500 years earlier than the earliest known site in Alberta. Some archaeologists such as Professor Gerry Oetelaar, at University of Calgary, have called the discovery "very significant" if



verified. He does not reject the idea of people reaching Alberta before the earliest known site of 11,500 BP, "it is just that there was no evidence of it before," he said.

Yet, for 50 years or more, it was the established consensus that humans did not enter the New World before the 'Clovis date' – a reference to the accepted oldest human habitation in North America, located in New Mexico where the Clovis people were believed to have flourished from 11,200 to 10,900 BP. Any evidence of earlier dates was tantamount to heresy. The so-called Clovis point of 12,000 BP was busted in 1990 with excavations of the Meadowcroft rockshelter in Pennsylvania (dated to 14,000–16,000 BP) and the Monte Verde site in Chile (dated to 13,000 BP). At a major conference of anthropologists at Boulder, Colorado, that year, D Stanford declared: "It's time to acknowledge that we do have a pre-Clovis culture in the New World."

But worse heresies continue to be excavated: controversy still dogs artefacts from the site at Calico, California – which have yielded uranium-thorium dates of a staggering 200,000 BP – and from Hueyatlaco in Mexico which are even older at 250,000 BP. The divisive nature of their discoveries is felt by the archaeologists themselves was expressed poignantly by Virginia Steen-McIntyre, one of the team at the Hueyatlaco site, who wrote in *Quaternary Research* (1981; 16:1): "We [...] are painfully aware that so great an age poses an archaeological dilemma. If the geologic dating is correct, sophisticated stone tools were used [here] long before analogous tools are thought to have been developed in Europe and Asia. Thus, our colleague, Cynthia Irwin-Williams has criticized the dating methods we have used and she wishes us to emphasize that an age of 250,000 years is essentially impossible."

KEY TO MAN'S ADVANCE THROUGH THE AMERICAS: How far they had got by when

11,320 years ago
11,250 years ago
11,150 years ago
10,930 years ago
10,500 years ago

means the only or even the oldest findings in the Americas and it seems excessive to vilify her on that count alone. Anthropologist Gunnar Thompson refers to a number of sites from which evidence of human presence has been found dating from before the onset of the last Ice Age – about 100,000 BP – in Canada, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, California, Mexico, Venezuela and Chile. Many other validated examples of anomalous artefacts from these really ancient periods can be found in William Corliss's Sourcebook series, but the most telling, to my mind, is the discovery in 1906 of Neanderthal type skulls near Omaha, Nebraska.

Gunnar Thompson favours the notion of an extensive and continuous flow of explorers, hunters and settlers to the Americas from Asia – arriving by sea as well as by foot over the Beringia land bridge – going as far back as 300,000 years BP. This has the merit of not relying on a single great wave of pedestrian migration and accommodates both the 'outward urge' (as John Wyndham called it) which must have been present in any age and the huge number of dated sites and artefacts which are anomalies in the orthodox chronology. Against this, the Amerindians, as we have seen, utterly reject the idea of there being earlier, more primitive inhabitants whom they exterminated, or dispossessed or absorbed.

"This is a battle over who controls America's past," said Bonnichsen. Grover Krantz – a professor of anthropology at



INDI-ANNA JONES: Anna Roosevelt has upset archaeology's old guard with her Brazilian theories

NEAL BERGER/PICTURES

argue that the NAGPA law was hastily conceived out of political correctness and assumes, wrongly, that anyone in the Americas before Columbus was a Native Indian. Above all, says Krantz, is the evidence that Kennewick Man was not an ancestor of the Umatillas or even an Amerindian at all.

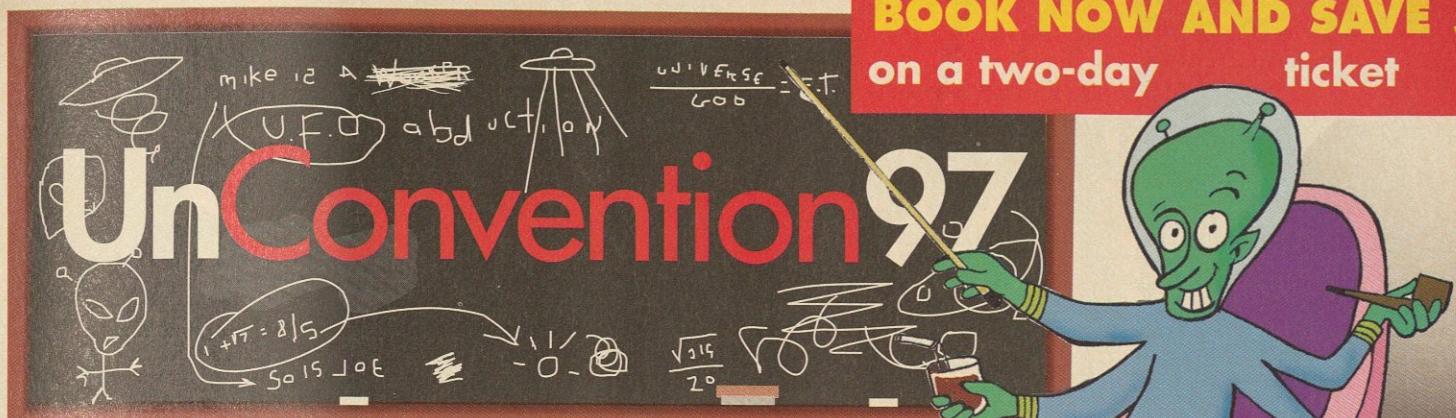
A small group of pre-eminent anthropologists and geneticists have already filed a suit

ROOSEVELT: *Int. Herald Tribune*, Hong Kong Standard [R] 20 April; *Times* 20 June 1996.

NEANDERTHAL: EH Barbour & HB Ward. Discovery of an early type of man in Nebraska. *Science* 1906; 24: 628–629.

OTHER: William Corliss. *Ancient Man: A Handbook of Puzzling Artifacts*. Glen Arm: Sourcebook Project, 1978; and *Science Frontiers* Glen Arm: Sourcebook Project, 1994. Gunnar Thompson. *American Discovery*. Seattle: Argonauts of the Misty Isles Press, 1992. G Barraclough. *Times Atlas of World History*. London: Times Books, 1985.

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MANIPULATED IMAGES BY PAUL GRIGGS

Everything that you know could be wrong – little more than re-constructed memories planted by government agents and mind-control programmes. David Guyatt traces the history of thought control experiments and looks at new technology that might help them shape a future psycho-civilised society

THE PENTAGON'S CREW-CUT COMMUNICATION

commandos say that less-than-lethal (LTL) weapons won't kill you. What they don't tell you is that their New-Age high-tech armoury has been secretly honed to mind-boggling efficacy and it is your mind that's been scheduled for boggling.

Your future shot of non-lethal Novocain might be an electromagnetic field that cocoons your every thought and inserts an inaudible 'command' message directly into your unconscious. The whole caboodle has been lovingly designed to re-programme the way you think – and even what you think. Alternatively, at the flip of a switch you might be turned off altogether.

Thought can be controlled – remotely. There's no need to attach wires or insert electrodes into the brain. Nowadays, the government and military spooks can hack straight into your brain. This might sound like the rabid fantasising of an *X-Files* fruitcake, but the technology is out there and so is the will to use it.

MIND ERASERS

In 1996, the US Air Force Scientific Advisory Board published a 14-volume study of future developments in weapons called *New World Vistas*. Tucked away on page 89 of an ancillary 15th volume are some hair-raising insights into the future 'coupling' of man and machine in a section dealing with 'Biological Process Control'. The author refers to an 'explosion' of knowledge in the field of neuroscience, adding, ominously: "One can envision the development of electromagnetic energy sources, the output of which can be pulsed, shaped, and focused, that can couple with the human body in a fashion that will allow one to prevent voluntary muscular movements, control emotions (and thus actions), produce sleep, transmit suggestions, interfere with both short-term and long-term memory, produce an experience set, and delete an experience set."¹ Translating the words 'experience set' from military jargon into plain English, this means, simply, that they envisage the ability to erase your life's memories and substitute a new, fictitious set.

There is debate about whether these mind-weapons are not already in 'low profile' service. By projecting such developments into the future, the authors of *New Vistas* might be camouflaging present-day capabilities. A similar futuristic scenario with many references to mind

manipulation is described in *The Revolution in Military Affairs and Conflict Short of War* (US Army War College, 1994). Authors Steven Metz and James Kievit declare:

"Behaviour modification is a key component of peace enforcement,"² ... and ... "The advantage of [using] directed energy systems is deniability."³ Savvy individuals, the authors ask: "Against whom is such deniability aimed?"⁴ The direct answer is "the American people".⁵ So much for 'open government'.

Set in the year 2010, Metz and Kievit write of "perception moulding" and "advanced psycho-technologies" to avoid irksome public protest, but that is just the beginning. The major obstacle, they believe, is that "traditional American ethics [are] a major hindrance", and thus, sadly, "old-fashioned notions of personal privacy and national sovereignty [are to be] changed".⁶

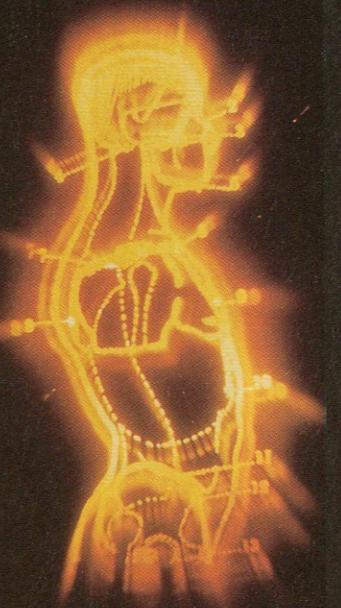
Individuals unwilling to go along with the revolutionary changes are to be "identified using comprehensive inter-agency integrated databases." They will then be "categorized" and "sophisticated computerized personality simulations" will be used "to develop, tailor and focus psychological campaigns for [i.e. against] each."⁷

Other techniques to be used in association with these new mind weapons, including 'morphing' – a present-day ability that controls the distortion of TV images.⁸ So, if you are lucky enough not to have your brains electronically scrambled – or erased – the electronic news media will be manipulated especially for you, presenting convincing near-real-life visual images through your combined TV set-cum-internet interface.

While these New-Age Da Vincis continue to create their speckled visions of our future, we should ask some hard questions now; specifically: "Is this technology just a futuristic dream or is it here today?"

As far back as World War II, research was being conducted into thought manipulation. The earliest extant reference, to my knowledge, was contained in the *US Strategic Bombing Survey* (Pacific Survey, Military Analysis Division, Volume 63) which reviewed

Japanese research into a 'Death Ray'. Although it never reached the stage of practical application, the research was considered to be sufficiently promising to warrant the expenditure of two million Yen between 1940 and 1945. Summarising Japanese efforts at the war's conclusion, allied scientists believed that a ray apparatus might be developed that could kill unshielded human beings at a



THE GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY SPOOKS CAN HACK STRAIGHT INTO YOUR BRAIN

FT GUIDE TO BLACK PROJECT NAMES

ARTICHOKE Project BLUEBIRD, renamed in August 1951 at urging of CIA's Allen Dulles, who is said to have favoured the vegetable. First instance of LSD testing on involuntary human subject resulting in death. First operational use, 1954, on "Communistic Bloc individuals".

BLUEBIRD Commenced 1949 under CIA auspices by Office of Scientific Intelligence (OSI) to develop "unconventional warfare techniques, including behavioural drugs". Domestic human testing involved.

CHATTER US Navy programme commencing 1947 aimed at weakening "if not eliminating free will in others" via psychological and pharmacological "terminal" operations with CIA in 1952, on unwitting foreign subjects. Code-named "CASTIGATE".

CHICKWIT Paralleled project OFTEN with an emphasis on non US domestic acquisition data from "Europe and the Orient." Believed to be the "sharp end" of R&D and thus distanced from US mainland.

distance of 5-10 miles (8-16km). Studies demonstrated that, for example, as early as 1943, automobile engines could be stopped by blasts of a specific wavelength.⁹ The effects on living organisms (mice and ground hogs) varied: a wavelength of 0.6-2m could cause bleeding in lungs, whereas wavelengths longer than 2m could destroy brain cells.

Mind control experiments have a grisly past. Nazi doctors at Dachau concentration camp conducted involuntary experiments with hypnosis and narco-hypnosis – using the drug mescaline – on inmates. Additional research at Auschwitz employed a range of chemicals including various barbiturates and morphine derivatives. Many of these experiments proved fatal. After the war, the US Navy was charged with obtaining industrial and scientific secrets of the Third Reich and, in 1947, following a lengthy report, the Navy instigated Project CHATTER.

Many of the former Nazi scientists and medical doctors were later recruited by the US Army and worked out of Heidelberg, Germany. Later, they were secretly relocated to the United States under the top secret programme Project PAPERCLIP. Under the leadership of Dr Hubertus Strughold, some 34

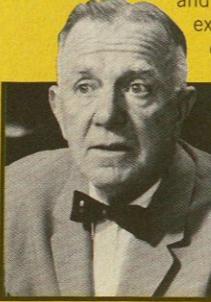
ex-Nazi scientists accepted PAPERCLIP contracts authorised by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and were put to work at Randolph Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. By 1953, the CIA, US Navy and the US Army Chemical Corps – mirroring Nazi methods – had started narco-hypnosis experiments on involuntary victims. These included prisoners, mental patients, foreigners, ethnic minorities and those classified as sexual deviants.¹⁰

It was not until the mid-1970s that the US public learned of the 30-year secret history of programmes conducted by the military and intelligence community.¹¹ Focusing primarily on

GRILLFLAME National Security Agency (NSA) project using ESP adept 'remote viewers' as spies.

MKACTION Sub-project of MKULTRA

MKDELTA Commenced 29 October 1952 under authority of CIA Deputy Director of Plans for the use of biochemical in clandestine operations.



Dr Hubertus Strughold

MKNAOMI Sub-project of MKULTRA. It was set up to investigate the potential development of a toxic arsenal and infectious bacteria.

Commenced 1952 in association with US Army's CBW research centre, Fort Detrick, Maryland.

MKSEARCH Follow on project from MKULTRA, which was officially said to be "terminated" following Freedom of Information Act searches exposure of human experimentation. Project MKSEARCH commenced 1966 through to 1972.

PANDORA Ostensibly a programme to monitor Soviet microwave bombardment of the US embassy in Moscow, known as "the war on Tchaikovsky Street", during the Sixties and Seventies. Established

PIQUE CIA project targeting Soviet workers in Nuclear installations by bouncing microwaves off stratosphere.

STARGATE Remote viewing project under different names: SCANATE (scanning by co-ordinates) was succeeded by GRILLFLAME, followed by CENTERLANE, SUNSTREAK and finally STARGATE. Terminated as a military project in November 1995. [See Psi Spy **FT87:28**.]

THIRD CHANCE US Army testing of LSD. Field tests commenced 1961 on "foreigners".

MKULTRA Commenced 3 April 1953 as umbrella CIA project for "special research purposes". The programme considered "various means for controlling human behaviour of which drugs were only one aspect, others being radiation, electro-shock, psychology, psychiatry, sociology, anthropology, harassment substances, and paramilitary devices and materials". Clandestine experiments conducted on "involuntary human subjects".

OFTEN Commenced by CIA contractor (name of whom is still classified and edited from FOIA releases) in Financial Year 1966. Focused on testing the behavioural and toxicological effects of drugs in "animals and ultimately humans".

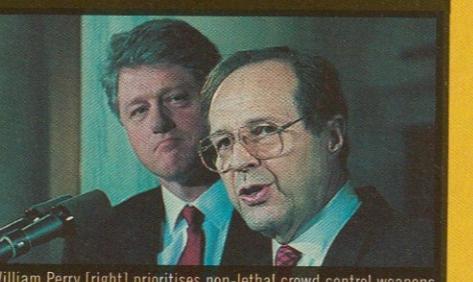
PAPERCLIP US Army project designed to spirit Nazi scientists, intelligence personnel and other war criminals from Europe to the US at the end of World War II.

PIQUE CIA project targeting Soviet workers in Nuclear installations by bouncing microwaves off stratosphere.

STARGATE Remote viewing project under different names: SCANATE (scanning by co-ordinates) was succeeded by GRILLFLAME, followed by CENTERLANE, SUNSTREAK and finally STARGATE. Terminated as a military project in November 1995. [See Psi Spy **FT87:28**.]

THIRD CHANCE US Army testing of LSD. Field tests commenced 1961 on "foreigners".

BY 1953 THE US NAVY, US ARMY CHEMICAL CORPS AND CIA HAD BEGUN NARCO-HYPNOSIS EXPERIMENTS



William Perry [right] prioritises non-lethal crowd control weapons

narco-hypnosis, the covert programmes MKULTRA, MKDELTA, MKNAOMI, MKSEARCH – MK being understood to stand for 'Mind Kontrol' – BLUEBIRD, ARTICHOKE and CHATTER aimed to create a reliable 'programmable' assassin. The development of a means of citizen control was seen as a bonus.¹²



Viacheslav Borovikov pulls a listening device from the wall of the newly-built Soviet embassy in Washington

Of central importance to these studies was Dr Jose Delgado's demonstration that remote electronic stimulation of the human brain can excite such extreme emotions as rage, lust and fatigue. In a key paper on 'Intracerebral Radio Stimulation'¹³, Delgado observed that: "Radio Stimulation on different points in the amygdala and hippocampus in the four patients produced a variety of effect, including pleasant sensations, elation, deep thoughtful concentration, odd feelings, super relaxation (an essential precursor for deep hypnosis),¹⁴ coloured visions, and other responses." The reference to "coloured visions" probably infers that a number of 'patients' reported hallucinations.¹⁵

Delgado believed in the creation of a 'psycho-civilised' society and predicted that a computer would one day be able to establish two-way radio communication with the brain using implanted 'stimocounters'. This day came in 1974. Lawrence Pinneo – a neurophysiologist and electronic engineer working for Stanford Research Institute (SRI) – developed a computer system capable of reading a person's mind. It correlated brain waves on an electroencephalograph with specific commands. Twenty years ago the computer responded with a dot on a TV screen. Nowadays it could be the input to a stimulator in advanced stages using radio frequencies.¹⁶

In the event, narco-hypnosis was found to be less than reliable, although some observers dispute this.¹⁷ Additional CIA-funded studies conducted by Dr Ewen Cameron were directed towards erasing memory and imposing new personalities on unwilling patients. Cameron discovered that electroshock treatment caused amnesia and set about a programme that he called "de-patternning" – erasing a patient's memory. Subjects were transformed into blank

machines – tabula rasas – and re-programmed with a technique which he termed "psychic driving". When his work was exposed – as a result of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) searches – the bitter public outrage forced Cameron to retire in disgrace.

Two other scientists had leading roles in this drama: Dr John C Lilly and Dr Eldon Byrd. Lilly was asked by the Director of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to brief the CIA, FBI, NSA and other military intelligence services on his 1953 use of electrodes to directly stimulate the pleasure and pain centres of the brain. According to Lilly, he refused.¹⁸ However, he continued to do "useful" work for the national security apparatus. Byrd – who worked for Naval Surface Weapons Office – was commissioned in 1981 to develop electromagnetic devices for "riot control", clandestine operations and hostage removal.¹⁹

Between 1965 and 1970, when it was discovered that the US embassy in Moscow was being bombarded by microwaves, the Defense Advanced Projects Research Agency (DAPRA), funded mostly by the military, set up operation PANDORA to study the psychological and health effects of low intensity microwaves. This included attempts to produce auditory hallucinations, induce heart seizures and create leaks in the blood-brain barrier. Despite efforts to render the Pandora programme invisible to scrutiny, FOIA searches revealed the memoranda of Richard Cesaro, the director of DAPRA, confirming that the programme's initial goal was to "discover whether a carefully controlled microwave signal could control the mind." Cesaro urged studies to be made "for potential weapons applications."²⁰

DEEP TRANCE

In response to public outcry in 1977, the US Congress forbade further research, demanding that these projects be terminated across the board. But as former CIA agent Victor Marchetti later revealed, the programmes were simply better hidden.²¹ Despite the fact that many of these projects involved the use of narcotics and hallucinogens, ARTICHOKE, PANDORA and CHATTER demonstrated that 'psycho-electronics' were a high priority. Indeed, an anonymous informer – humorously known as 'Deep Trance' – told author John Marks that, beginning in 1963, the emphasis in

THE FREY EFFECT: Synthetic Telepathy

DR ALAN FREY stunned fellow physiologists when he published his paper Human Auditory System Response to Modulated Electromagnetic Energy. The first sentence set the tone for what was to follow: "This paper explains how voices can be beamed directly into an individual's head." First published in September 1961, the ability to remotely "insert" voices inside a human's head had "obvious applications in covert operations" by the intelligence community, stated double Nobel Prize nominee Dr



mind control research was put on electronics.

During 1989, CNN aired a documentary on electromagnetic (EM) weapons and showed a US government document outlining a contingency plan to use EM weapons against 'terrorists'. Prior to the show, a US Department of Defense medical engineer claimed that microwaves and 'other modalities' had regularly been used to condition Palestinians. The prestigious US weekly *Defense News* (for 11-17 January 1993) announced that the Russian government was discussing the transfer of technical information and equipment for 'acoustic psycho-correction' with American counterparts. The Russians claimed that this device involved "the transmission of specific commands via static or white noise bands into the human subconscious without upsetting

The pioneering work of Dr Ross Adey determined that emotional states and behaviour can be remotely influenced by manipulating an electromagnetic field around a subject. Adey and others have compiled a library of frequencies and pulsation rates which can affect the mind and nervous system.

Drs Joseph Sharp and Allen Frey experimented with microwaves, seeking to transmit spoken words directly into the audio cortex via a pulsed-microwave analog of the sound of the words. Indeed, Frey's work in this field, dating back to 1960, gave rise to the 'Frey effect', which is now more commonly referred to as 'microwave hearing'.²³ Within the Pentagon, this ability is known as 'Artificial Telepathy'.²⁴

TODAY'S TECHNOLOGY?

Have weapons of this nature been developed and field-tested? Judging by the number of individuals and groups that have come forward with complaints of harassment the answer appears to be yes. In 1986, Kim Besley – of the Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp²⁵ – compiled a catalogue of symptoms blamed on low frequency signals emanating from the US Greenham Common base and, apparently, targeted on the women protesters. These include vertigo, retinal



THE GREENHAM COMMON SYMPTOMS MIRRORED THOSE ONE WOULD EXPECT HAD MICROWAVE WEAPONS BEEN USED

Robert Becker, who added that such a weapon could be "designed to drive a target crazy with voices".

Funded by the US Navy, Dr Frey studied the use of low-intensity microwaves to "induce heart seizures". Questioned about his weapons application work, Frey claimed he "was just a biological theorist," and that his Navy work was "basic medical research".

Frey's work was continued by Dr Joesph Sharp, a CIA Project PANDORA researcher at the Walter



Reid Army Institute of Research (WRAIR). Sharp's work was so secret that he couldn't tell his boss.

In a 1973 experiment, Sharp could "recognise spoken words that were modulated on a microwave carrier frequency by an 'audiogram' – an analog of the words' sound vibrations".

Today, the ability to remotely transmit microwave voices inside a target's head is known inside the Pentagon as 'Synthetic Telepathy'. During July

1992, at the John F Kennedy Special Warfare Course & School, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Major General Sidney Schacknow delivered a lecture on the subject. Fort Bragg is home of the "Green Berets" – the US equivalent to Britain's elite SAS – specialists in highly classified covert operations, assassinations and 'psy-ops'. Asked whether the General would provide a copy of his lecture notes, an embarrassed Fred Fuller, Library Chief at Bragg's JFK Memorial Library, first ducked the question, saying that "many of the General's speeches are given extemporaneously", but also added the General "cannot locate" his notes – a response he typified as "bad news".

"THE US GOVERNMENT HAS AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE WHICH COULD IMPLANT THOUGHTS"

- Major Ed Dames



Major Ed Dames - close to developers of non-lethal weapons

bleeding, face burns (even at night), nausea, sleep disturbances, palpitations, loss of concentration, loss of memory, disorientation, severe headaches, temporary paralysis, faulty speech co-ordination, irritability and a sense of panic in non-panic situations. Identical effects have been reported elsewhere and appear to be fairly commonplace among 'victims'. Many of these symptoms have been associated in medical literature with exposure to microwaves and especially low intensity or non-thermal exposures.²⁶

They were reviewed by Dr Robert Becker - twice nominated for the Nobel Prize and a specialist in EM effects - who confirmed that the Greenham Common symptoms mirrored those he would expect to see, had microwave weapons been deployed.

In April 1994, *Scientific American* ran an article entitled 'Bang! You're Alive' in which they described, briefly, some of the Less

Than Lethal weapons available at that time. These included laser rifles and low frequency 'infrasound' generators powerful enough to trigger nausea or diarrhoea. Steve Aftergood of the

WHO'S WATCHING YOU?

Major Edward Dames - formerly with the Pentagon's Defence Intelligence Agency until 1992 - was a long serving member of the highly classified operation GRILLFLAME, a programme that focused on some of the more bizarre possibilities of intelligence gathering and remote interrogation. Known as 'remote viewers', the GRILLFLAME personnel possessed a marked clairvoyant ability to 'penetrate' designated targets and gather important intelligence on significant figures.

The programme operated with two teams; one working out of the top secret NSA facility at Fort George Meade in Maryland and the other at the SRI. Results are said to have been exemplary; however, following the Oliver North debacle, the Secretary of Defense officially terminated GRILLFLAME fearing bad publicity were it to become public knowledge. Leading members of the project, including Dames, were relocated to a privately-owned and newly formed company called Psi-Tech, operating under government contract. In the course of his work, Dames was (and remains) close to many of the leading figures and proponents of anti-personnel electromagnetic weapons, especially those that operate in the neurological field. In a documentary aired by NBC's *The Other Side* series in April 1995,

battle. This project is headed by Jack Verona, a highly placed Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) officer.

On 21 July 1994, US Defense Secretary William J. Perry issued a memorandum on non-lethal weapons outlining a priority list for use of these technologies. "Crowd control" was second on the list; a poor fifth was: "Disable or destroy weapons or weapon development/production processes, including suspected weapons of mass destruction." Non-lethality is primarily seen as anti-personnel rather than anti-material.

The July 1995 issue of the widely circulated rightist US newspaper *Spotlight* reported that well placed Department of Defense sources have confirmed a classified Pentagon contract for the development of "high-power electromagnetic generators that interfere with human brain waves". The article cited a 1994 memorandum between Attorney General Janet Reno and Defense Secretary William Perry about the transfer of LTL weapons from the military to the law enforcement sector. A budget of nearly \$50 million has been made available for funding associated 'black' programmes. In connection with the aforementioned electromagnetic generator, Harvard professor of physics Dr Emery Horvath stated: "These electronic 'skull-zappers' are designed to invade the mind and short-circuit its synapses [...] in the hands of government technicians it may be used to disorient entire crowds, or to manipulate individuals into self-destructive acts. It's a terrifying weapon."²⁸

In a 1993 US Air Command and Staff College paper entitled 'Non Lethal Technology and Air Power', authors Jonathan W. Klaaren and Ronald S. Mitchell - both USAF Majors - outlined selected LTL weapons, including: "acoustic" (pulsed/attenuated high-intensity sound and low frequency infrasound); "poly-sound" (high volume, distracting); and high-power microwaves (HPM) that can "deter/incapacitate people..." These and other classified weapons are being passed to domestic law enforcement agencies, as shown by the 1995 Office of National Drug Control Policy International Technology Symposium entitled 'Counter-Drug Law Enforcement: Applied Technology for Improved Operational Effectiveness' which specifically included the "transition of advanced military technologies to the civil law enforcement environment".

DR DELGADO'S STIMOCEIVER

DR JOSE DELGADO, a neurophysiologist at the Yale University School of Medicine, had been conducting experiments with Electronic Stimulation of the Brain (ESB) since the late 1940s. His finest hour came in the summer of 1964 when, with financial backing from the US Office of Naval Research, Dr Delgado stood before a quivering, one-ton angry bull determined to gore the doctor to death.



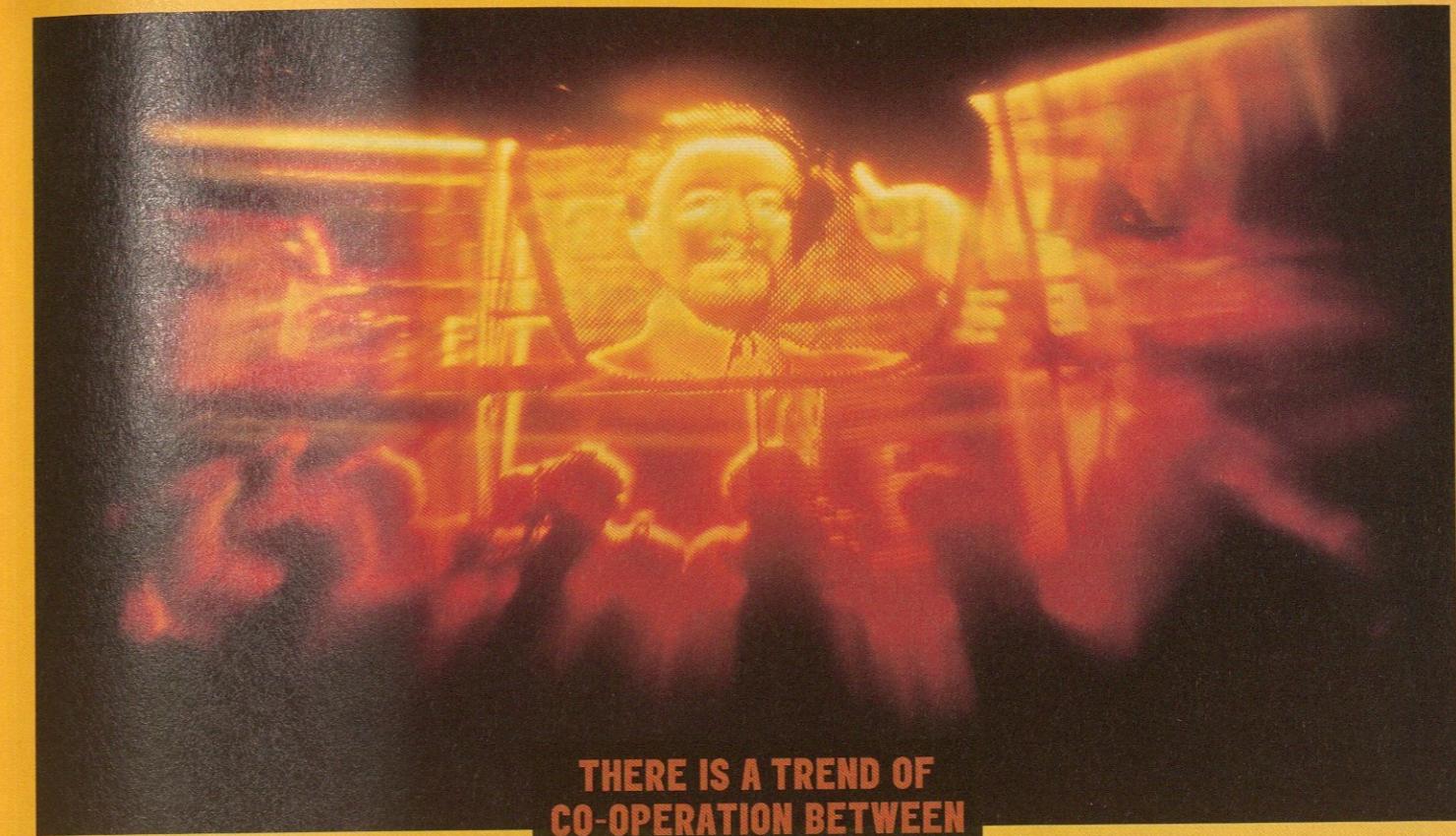
In a Bullring in Madrid, Spain, Delgado eyed the charging beast and coolly toggled the switch on his handset. It was as if the bull hit an invisible wall. Stopping dead in its tracks, it turned away, confused [see scenes from video above]. The process was repeated a number of times, each time with the same result. A probe had been previously implanted in the bull's brain and attached to a small radio receiver strapped to the animal's head. Delgado's now infamous 'Stimoceiver' clearly demonstrated the efficacy of ESB.

Speaking two years later, in 1966, Delgado stated that his experiments "support the distasteful conclusion that motion, emotion, and behaviour can be directed by electrical and that humans can be controlled like robots by push buttons". In a series of later experiments, Delgado attached the stimoceiver to the tympanic membrane of a cat. An assistant would whisper: "How are you?" into the cat's ear, and in another room, Delgado listened to the words on a loudspeaker. Veteran CIA officer-turned-'whistle-blower' Victor Marchetti confirmed Delgado's techniques had been applied by the agency.

Dames stated: "The US Government has an electronic device which could implant thoughts in people." He refused to comment further.²⁹

CITIZEN RESTRAINED

In an age in which the threat of global warfare has significantly diminished as a result of the easing of tension between East and West, it can be anticipated that some form of introspection will occur in the developed Western nations. Societies that have been honed for warfare for generations do not, on the whole, adapt well to peace. In the United States, for example, there is a rapidly developing trend of co-operation between the military and law enforcement agencies relating to LTL weaponry. While it is clear that this is driven to some extent by budgetary considerations, there remain legitimate concerns regarding the long-term effect



THERE IS A TREND OF CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE MILITARY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES



Vehicle immobilisation by electromagnetic weapons mirrors the often claimed characteristics of close-encounters with UFOs

on democracy. The reality of a growing and increasingly impoverished lower class as a result of 'swords to shears' economics, is certain to result in growing civil unrest, disobedience, strife, inner city turmoil and quite possibly much worse.³⁰ Rather than seeking to resolve the underlying causes of these tensions, it is feared that governments will increasingly resort to more durable measures to quell domestic dissent.

LTL anti-personnel weapons³¹ are seen in some influential quarters as being the ideal remedy for future domestic disturbances that clearly result from poverty and despair.³² The danger with this is that traditional western democracy might fail and become increasingly repressive and oligarchic.³³ Armed with innovative technological weapons that do not kill, but which render disenfranchised

robots by push buttons." (*Think*, no. 32, July-August 1966). Delgado was funded by the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI). It is believed he still works as a consultant for the US government.

14 My interpretation

15 See 'Mind Control and the American Government' by Martin Cannon in *Lobster*, no. 23.

16 See 'Neural Manipulation by Radar' by Armen Victorian in *Lobster*, no. 30, and also 'Mind Reading Computer' in *Time Magazine*, 1 July 1974.

17 Marks notes that the vast bulk of CIA key documents were illegally destroyed in 1973 at the order of the then DCI, Richard Helms.

18 See his autobiography, *The Scientist*.

19 Anna Keeler in *Full Disclosure*, 1989.

20 Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) report released under FOIA. Also see Anna Keeler, Capt. Paul E. Tyler, MC, USN, paper entitled *The Electromagnetic Spectrum in Low Intensity Conflict* in *Cadre*, 1986) is also relevant in this connection.

21 In an interview with John Marks, CIA veteran Miles Copeland admitted to a journalist, prior to his death, that "The congressional subcommittee which went into this sort of thing got only the barest glimpse."

22 In connection with "enhancing abilities of friendly forces" see numerous articles and exposés on Col. John B. Alexander. See also Armen Victorian's 'Psychic Warfare and Non-lethal Weapons'.

23 Dr Ross Adey, Dr Allen Frey, In this connection the work of Dr James Lin of Wayne State University should be noted. Lin has written a book entitled *Microwave Auditory Effects & Applications* in which he states "The capability of communicating directly with humans by pulsed microwaves is obviously not limited to the field of therapeutic medicine."

24 Refer to Dr Robert Becker, who has stated

"Such a device has obvious applications in covert operations designed to drive a target crazy with 'voices' or deliver undetected instructions to a programmed assassin." In 1974 Dr JF Scapitz filed a plan to explore the interaction of radio signals and hypnosis. He stated that "In this investigation it will be shown that the spoken word of the hypnotists may be conveyed by modulated electromagnetic energy directly into the subconscious parts of the human brain - ie. without employing any technical devices for receiving or transcribing the messages and without the person exposed to such influence having a chance to control the information input consciously." Schapitz's work was funded by the DoD. Despite FOIA filings, his work has never been made available. Also it is interesting to note the date of 1974, which almost exactly mirrors the period when the USSR commenced its own programme that resulted in "Acoustic Psycho-correction technology."

25 Sadly, Kim died in July 1996. She will be remembered by many as the 'grandmother' of independent researchers in this field.

26 Similar effects have been reported, for instance, at the Women's Peace camp at Seneca, in New York state.

27 Psychic phenomena studies were, in fact, part of classified Pentagon programmes dating back over two decades.

28 I have certain caveats in citing this material.

Firstly, I have written to two of the scientists quoted in the *Spotlight* article. To date neither replied either to confirm or deny their comments.

Another, source quoted by *Spotlight*, Steve Aftergood of the Federation of American Scientists (FAS) has confirmed that his comments were accurately recorded. It is also important to point out that *Spotlight* is an ultra-right wing publication and one must, therefore, take these citations with due caution.

29 In a telephone conversation with this writer, researcher Armen Victorian urged caution when dealing with Ed Dames, who is considered to be 'unreliable' by some.

30 Aggravated by narcotics related crime - presently estimated to be between \$500-800 billion a year, thus an industry outstripping all other 'business sectors' with the possible exception of the weapons industry. These figures extracted from Brian Freemantle's *The Octopus* (Orion Books, 1995).

31 Especially some classes of EM weapons that are viewed as having a capability to remotely modify behaviour or attack higher functions.

32 See Department of Defense Draft directive dated 1 January 1995 outlining taking objectives for Non Lethal Weapons.

33 See Noam Chomsky's and Edward Herman's *Manufacturing Consent* (Pantheon Books, New York, 1988).

**gazette**

RISING FROM THE DEEP

LOREN COLEMAN CHARTS THE RISE AND RISE OF CRYPTOZOLOGY FROM THE 1950s, AND THE GROUND-BREAKING WORK OF BERNARD HEUVELMANS, TO *THE X-FILES*

Cryptozoology – literally, the study of hidden animals – is one of the newest of the life sciences and certainly one of the most exciting. During the past 40 years, interest in sightings and myths dealing with ‘monsters’ has lifted the subject from the dark badlands of obscure travelogues to the sunlit uplands of academic respectability. This is largely due to zoologist Dr Bernard Heuvelmans, whose 1955 book *On the Track of Unknown Animals* earned him the title ‘the Father of Cryptozoology’. Originally written in French, this now classic opus was soon reprinted in English and other languages; with more than one million copies in print up to 1995, it was an international bestseller. From witnesses’ accounts, physical evidence and aboriginal folklore on such creatures as the Himalayan *yeti* (abominable snowman), the Kenyan *marozi* (spotted lion) and the Patagonian

giant sloth, Heuvelmans made a good case for the fact that there were still large animals left to discover in the world. Despite the well known success stories of the coelacanth, the okapi and the giant panda, this was a novel idea at the time.

During the ensuing years, through the labours of such people as Roy Mackal at the University of Chicago and George Zug at the Smithsonian Institution, the notion developed of organising a group of interested academics at doctoral level to give the subject some scientific status. Their efforts came to fruition in 1982 when a small band of distinguished zoologists, anthropologists and biologists formed the International Society of Cryptozoology (ISC). With Heuvelmans as its first president, the ISC expanded, affiliating academic groups from Bulgaria to Vietnam. As a subject, cryptozoology rapidly gained esteem and by the late 1980s was taught in universities throughout the United States; for example, I developed one such course at the University of Southern Maine and colleagues of mine have offered similar classes to future faculty members.

In recent years, the ISC has fallen far behind in publishing its annual journal, *Cryptozoology*, intended to be the chief vehicle for describing new animals, field-work and historical research. Events in the real world, however, could not wait and the science has continued to evolve, regardless. The worldwide media attention given to the momentous discoveries of several large new species in south-east Asia’s ‘Lost World’ – see Karl Shuker’s report on Vietnam in **FT91:42** – did much to prove Heuvelmans and others correct in their analyses of the evidence.

A decade ago, the word ‘cryptozoology’ was almost unknown. Today, from the corner news-stand to the internet and the Hollywood blockbusters, cryptozoology has become a marketable commodity and an integral part of our culture. One only has to

see the extent of the media attention given to the *Chupacabras* among the Hispanic communities of the Western hemisphere – surely equal to the Loch Ness Monster or Bigfoot as a cultural icon – to realise the sociological effects of cryptozoology.

During 1996, *On the Track of Unknown Animals* was reprinted in a slightly updated version and, despite being some 677 pages long, was an instant success, rediscovered by a new generation of budding cryptozoologists. The new introduction is filled with fresh gems that should not be overlooked. The Father of Cryptozoology has promised that this is only the first in a series of new editions of his many long-out-of-print or never-before-translated studies that he hopes to see before his death.

Bernard Heuvelmans’s is one of the grandest success stories in the annals of nature’s authentic mysteries. Now he is



CRYPTOZOLOGY IS NOW A MARKETABLE AND INTEGRAL PART OF OUR CULTURE

being fully and justly recognised – and casual evidence of this has popped up in the strangest of places.

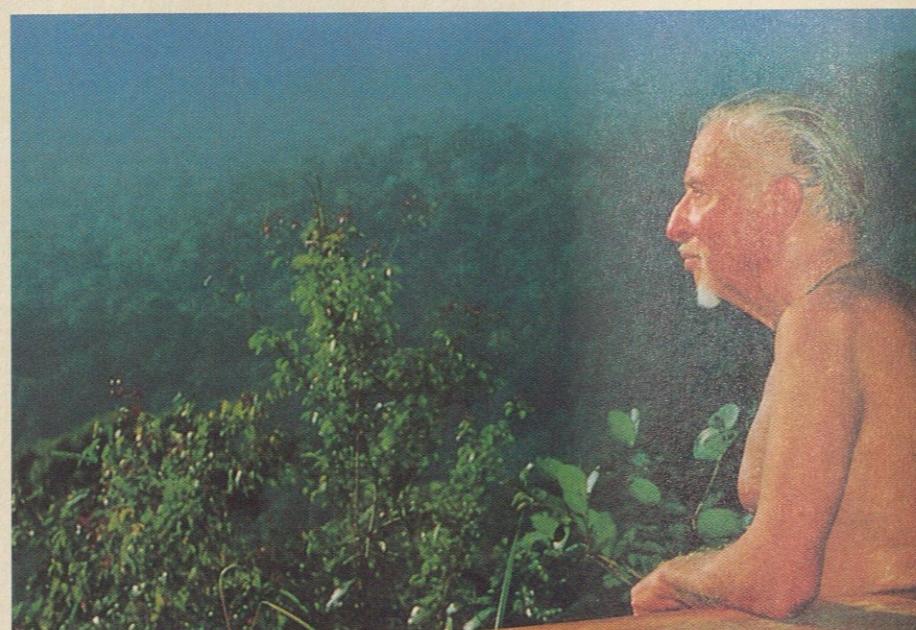
The third season of *The X-Files* featured an episode called ‘Quagmire’. Written by Kim Newton and directed by Kim Manners, it dealt with increasing reports of sightings of a mysterious creature dubbed ‘Big Blue’ at a freshwater reservoir in Georgia, USA, named Heuvelmans Lake. The debate centred on whether or not the lake monster was

responsible for disappearances among the local frog and human populations. As it turned out, an alligator – perhaps out of place and certainly huge and mean – was identified as the killer.

While several episodes of *The X-Files* have utilised cryptozoological motifs, ‘Quagmire’ was the first time the show’s characters used the word ‘cryptozoology’ as, throughout the story, Agents Mulder and Scully discuss the subject’s pros and cons. I’m not certain whether this was the first television fiction to use the word, but in conjunction with the winking mention of Heuvelmans’s name it is certainly original.

Internet X-philes were upset when Scully’s dog ‘Queequeg’ was devoured by the monster, but I, as a cryptozoologist, was disturbed by what happened after the out-of-place alligator was destroyed – unseen by the protagonists, but visible to us, Big Blue surfaced briefly behind them.

Bernard Heuvelmans once mentioned, in a footnote, that he sat on the shores of Loch Ness, searching the dark waters for signs of one of its famous monsters. He was struck by the dilemma that would befall him if he actually did see one. Who would believe him? Would he have to throw out his book on sea serpents? I’d like to believe that Heuvelmans did see one of the beasties and decided never to tell us.



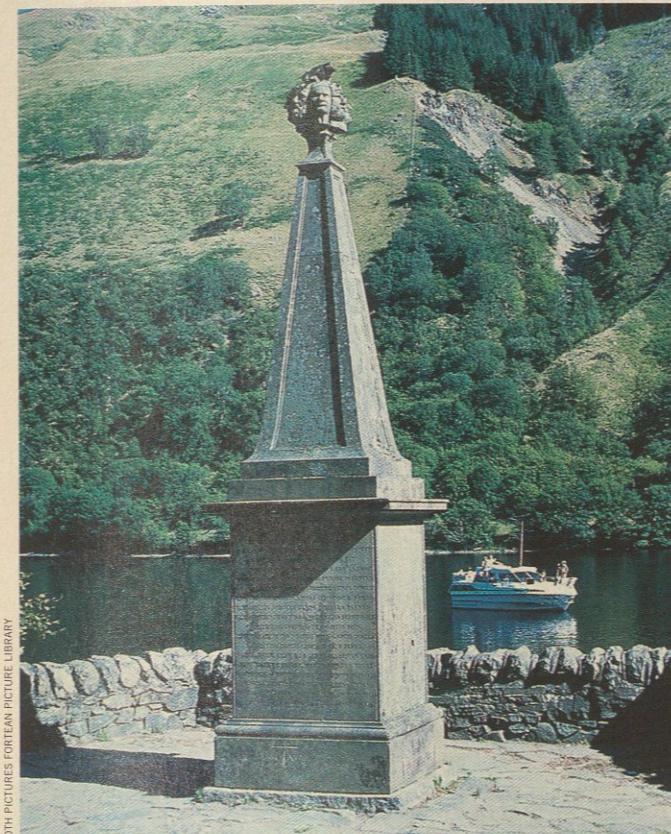
FATHER BERNARD: Dr Heuvelmans, the Father of Cryptozoology, still firmly believes that there are still large animals left to discover

On the Trail

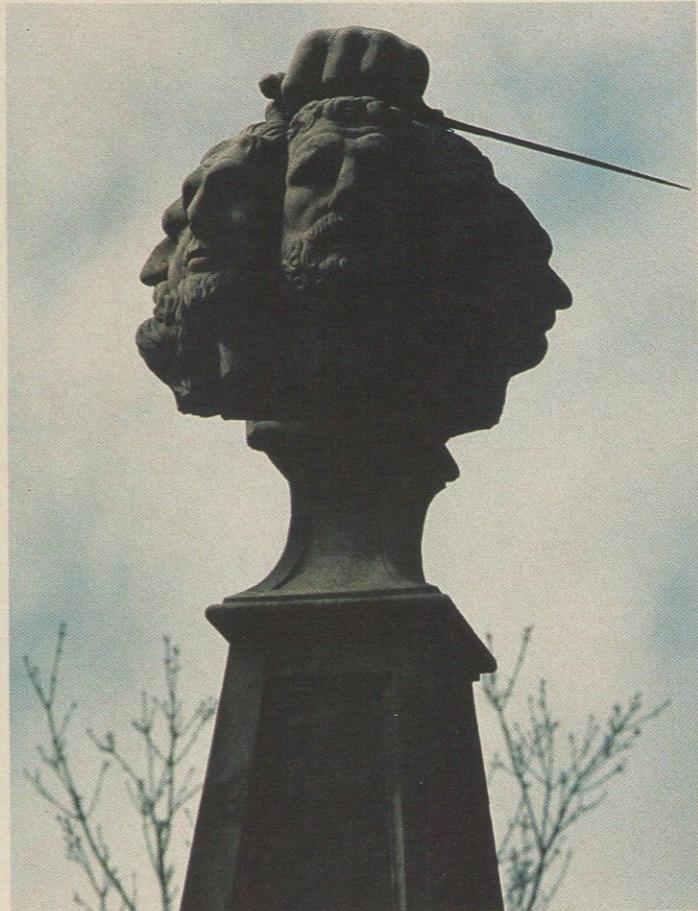
Secret Country

25: THE WELL OF THE HEADS, LOCH OICH

JANET AND COLIN BORD CONSULT THEIR MAP OF MARVELS AND LEAD THE WAY TO SOME OF THE MYSTERIOUS PLACES WORTH VISITING IN GREAT BRITAIN. THIS MONTH THEY’RE OFF TO THE SITE OF A MULTIPLE DECAPITIATION IN SCOTLAND



MURDER SCENE: (Above) Monument erected to the victims of a revenge killing at the Well of the Heads on the shore of Loch Oich; (right) The carving at the top depicts a hand holding the seven severed heads that were supposedly washed in the well before being presented to the chief of the McDonnells



In Scotland there are several wells called the Well of the Head (Tobar a’ Chinn) or Well of the Heads (Tobar nan Ceann), especially on the Isle of Skye. The name is explained by a murder story, which varies with each well, but includes a decapitated head, or heads, being placed or washed in the well. On the Scottish mainland, the best known Well of the Heads is at Loch Oich near Invergarry. This well reputedly took its name from an event in the 1660s when seven men were beheaded in revenge for their having murdered two young McDonells. The heads were washed at the spring as they were being taken for presentation to McDonell of Glengarry. A monument erected at the well in 1812 shows a hand holding a dirk and seven heads; the inscription, carved in English, Gaelic, French and Latin, reads:

“As a memorial of the ample and summary vengeance which, in the swift course of feudal justice, inflicted by the order of Lord McDonell and Aross, overtook the perpetrators of the foul murder of the Keppoch Family, a branch of the powerful and illustrious clan of which his lordship was the chief. This monument is erected by Colonel McDonell of Glengarry, XVII Mac-Mhic-Alaister, his successor and representative, in the year of Our Lord 1812. The heads of the

Seven Murderers were presented at the feet of the noble Chief in Glengarry Castle after having been washed in this spring; and ever since that event, which took place in the seventeenth century, it has been known by the name of Tobar-nan-Ceann or the Well of the Heads.”

It is not clear how far truth has been overlaid by legend. The murders certainly occurred, for the seven headless bodies were later dug out of the mound where they were said to have been buried. If the heads were washed in the well, as tradition relates, this is a striking continuation of Celtic practice in two respects: the taking of heads as evidence of success over enemies, and the association of such heads with water.

To the Celts, the head was the most important part of the body, symbolising the divine power, and they venerated the head as the source of all the attributes they most admired, such as fertility, healing, prophecy and wisdom. Heads of important enemies were carried home and displayed on stakes. The most prized heads were preserved in cedar oil and kept in wooden boxes.

Sometimes the heads were decorated with gold and used as cups for offerings to the gods, a custom which continued until recent times at some holy wells where the water had to be drunk from a human skull if

it was to have any value to the pilgrim. This is one of the many associations between heads and ancient wells and springs.

There are many legends which tell how a holy well came into existence at the place where a severed head fell, usually a saint’s head. This happened at St Winefride’s Well in Holywell, Flintshire [see **FT90:43**], and at Watchet in Somerset, where St Decuman, a Welsh saint, had established a hermitage. He was attacked and beheaded by local pagans, St Decuman’s Well springing up where his head fell (in another version, the well was already there and St Decuman washed his head in its water). At Marnoch in Banff it was customary for many years, as part of the practice of Christianity, to wash the skull of St Marnoch, who was said to have been buried there around 650AD. The water in which the skull was washed was used to heal the sick.

So the 17th century events recorded at the Well of the Heads actually have their origins much further back in time, and are just one example of the continuation of pagan practices throughout the Celtic areas of Britain.

LOCATION: (OS ref: NN 304993) The Well of the Heads is south of Invergarry, itself a few miles south-west of the southern tip of Loch Ness, beside the A82 and Loch Oich.



Diary of a Mad Planet

OCTOBER TO NOVEMBER 1996

A RECORD OF THE GEOPHYSICAL HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR PLANET – THE TEMPESTS AND TANTRUMS, ODDITIES AND EXTREMITIES



PETERSON/REUTER

BRIDGE UNDER TROUBLED WATER: The eruption of the Loki volcano under the Vatnajokull glacier in Iceland released a torrent of water that swept away road bridges, including the 1,233ft (375m) Gigja bridge [above]

LAND OF FIRE AND ICE

The Loki volcano, inconveniently situated beneath the largest glacier in Europe, erupted at the start of October. Flames 5 miles (8km) high and 2 miles (3km)-high columns of smoke were reported during the eruption, and the heat melted large portions of the Vatnajokull glacier. After almost a month of tension, the water finally inundated the island in early November, causing unprecedented damage. Some 2,000 cubic metres per hour gushed over the uninhabited plains surrounding the volcano, sweeping away several road bridges, including the 1,233ft (375m) Gigja Bridge. While the main menace came from the water itself, matters were complicated by enormous chunks of ice which had broken free from the glacier. Authorities feared that the island's coastal road network, electricity grid and telecommunication links might be severely damaged; in the event, only the roads suffered significantly.

AULD SHAKIE

The month of October saw an apparent plague of earthquakes hit Edinburgh. The first quake hit the east of the city on the 2 October with householders in the area reporting "a shake as if somebody had jumped on the floor". Quakes continued

through the month; some press estimates claimed 35 tremors and quakes in 30 days with some registering as far away as Perth. Popular opinion put the blame squarely on the opening of a new coal face at the nearby Monktonhall Colliery. The British Geological Survey has discovered that the quakes all happened during the working week; further research also showed that the tremors originated at a similar depth to new workings at the colliery. An inquiry was being mooted.

BLOW UP

Six people died as the last gasps of Hurricane Lili blew across England at the end of October. Thousands of homes across the country lost their electricity supplies as power lines were felled by 90mph winds. Two oil rigs were cast adrift in Peterhead and Portland; Portland itself was cut off after the road to the mainland flooded. In Essex, five people had to be rescued by lifeboat when high tides trapped their cars on the causeway to Mersea Island. An Atlantic grey seal pup was taken in overnight by kennels in Pembrokeshire after it was washed up on the coast road near Amroth. A lamppost was blown over in central London, and the pavilion at Arsenal football club's training ground in Hertfordshire was destroyed.

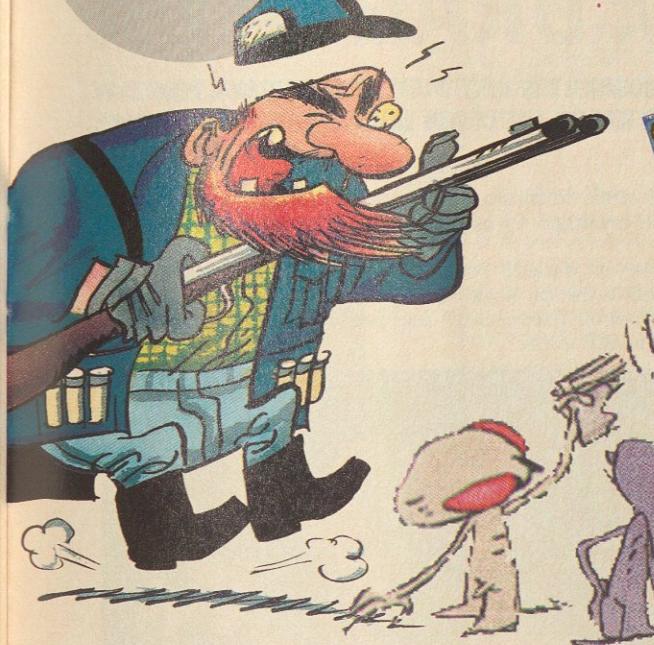
BURN HOLLYWOOD BURN

More than 100 homes and 20,000 acres of land were burnt by fires which raged across Southern California late in October. Flames leapt over 100ft (30m) as high winds helped spread the conflagration. More than 1,000 firefighters were called in to tackle the firestorms. Among those affected were the residents of the exclusive private estate known as Malibu Colony, including Shirley MacLaine (who obviously hadn't been warned of this particular disaster), Frank Sinatra and Richard Gere. The same area was the scene of a previous fire in 1993, which caused some £500million of damage and killed three people.

BIG CHILL

Alaska, of all places, has experienced an unusually early winter. A snowstorm hit Anchorage on 12 October; 12.6in (32cm) of snow fell, which is the highest snowfall the city has seen in a single day, topping a 1940 record of 10in (25cm). Over the following weekend, nearly 18in (46cm) were recorded at Anchorage International Airport. The snowfall set a record for the first two weeks in October. Temperatures also hit a seasonal low of 28°F (-2.2°C), the lowest for the period since records began in 1916.

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**forum****CRYPTOZOLOGY**

WHALE OF A TIME WITH A DRAGON

ON HEARING THE CRY: "BRING ME THE HEAD OF A SEA SERPENT", JONATHAN DOWNES DID JUST THAT, OR NEARLY, IN A PUB CAR PARK, MARKING THE END OF A SEARCH AND HAMMERING HOME THE LAST NAIL IN THE COFFIN LID OF A CORNISH MYSTERY



JONATHAN DOWNES
IS EDITOR OF
ANIMALS & MEN AND
RUNS THE CENTRE FOR
FORTEAN ZOOLOGY

REFERENCES AND NOTES

1. M Chovinsky. Of Dragons and Dreams. *Strange Magazine* #9.
2. A Mawnan-Peller (Pseud). *Morgawr-the monster of Falmouth Bay*. Exeter: CFZ, 1996. (Mawnan-Peller is a Falmouth journalist who shall remain nameless.)
3. *Falmouth Packet*, 5 March 1976.
4. We have been unable to locate this original photograph which does not, as far as we have been able to ascertain, appear to have been published. Our attempts to contact Mrs Payne have been similarly fruitless.
5. *The Why Files*, Live TV. The Owlman of Mawnan. (Transmitted Summer 1996)
6. Doc Shiels lived in Ponsanooth for about 20 years, during which his most famous quasi-Forteans exploits took place. However, the blocked road was just a coincidence, wasn't it?
7. John A Keel. *The Mothman Prophecies* (UK Title *Visitors from Space*). London: Granada, 1976.
8. During an unpublished interview that I conducted with Doc during the summer of 1995 we discussed *The Mothman Prophecies*. He noted quizzically: "Maybe the owlman sightings occurred because I had been reading *The Mothman Prophecies*." This could be interpreted as an admission of guilt, or as a type of quasi-forteans solipsism, underlining, as it were, his peculiar invocational powers. In view of my own experiences both at Mawnan Church and elsewhere, I tend to suspect the latter.
9. Mr Brown. Personal communication.
10. DJ Coffey. *Encyclopaedia of Sea Mammals*. London: Hart-Davis, McGibbon, 1977.
11. Dr KPN Shuker. Personal communication.
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13. I will spare the authours blushes by not revealing them. They know who they are.
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ILLUSTRATION: JOHN FARRELL

Among the best known series of modern sea serpent sightings is that of Morgawr - the 'Durgan Dragon' of Falmouth Bay. Further to a number of historical sightings, modern records began in 1975, but 1976 is the year most associated with the phenomenon. According to commentators on the subject, the year began excitingly with what Anthony Mawnan-Peller described as a:

"Strange (and so far unidentified) carcass (...) discovered on Durgan Beach, Helford River, by Mrs Payne of Falmouth".²

This account has been quoted extensively in books about the subject, but few bother to report the aftermath of the story. A few weeks later, however, the *Falmouth Packet* reported that a young naturalist living locally believed that he had found the answer to the mystery.³

"The mystery of the bones of Durgan beach may have been solved this week by 13 year old Toby Benham, a keen student of skeletons. Toby believes the bones found at Durgan by Mrs Kaye Payne of Falmouth, come not from a 20 foot sea monster as suggested, but from a whale. He came to this conclusion because he thinks that the bones form part of a skeleton he discovered on nearby Prisk Beach just after Christmas. Toby [...] studied the *Packet's* photograph⁴ of Mrs Payne holding a bone from the beach and he is convinced that it is one of those he saw.

"I am sure it is from a whale," said the young naturalist emphatically.

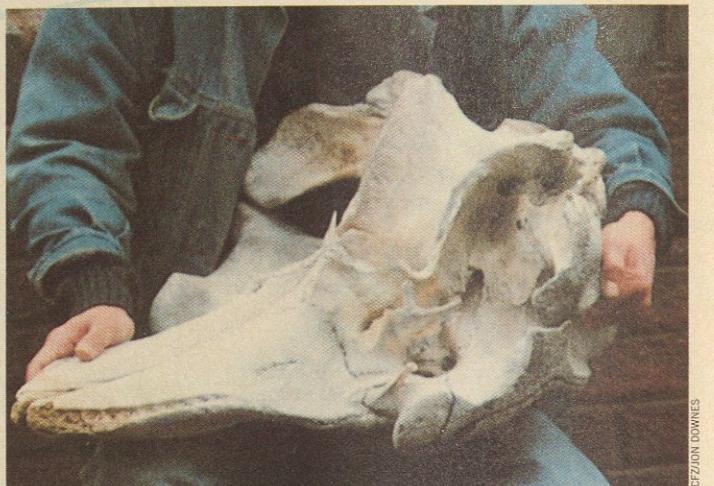
"His explanation for their appearance at Durgan is equally emphatic. 'Storm tides swept them around from Prisk,' he says."

For the past five years the skull had, apparently, been in the art department of Toby's old school in Falmouth. Eventually we managed to contact the teacher Mr Brown and were told we could photograph the skull whenever we wanted... but we wanted more. Asked whether we could borrow the skull, he replied: "Yeah, why don't you come down and get it some time this week?"

Alison and I were scheduled to spend some time in Cornwall over the next few days, visiting

the Falmouth area, to film a documentary about the Owlman of Mawnan.⁵ We arranged to collect the skull from the school at lunchtime.

An accident just outside Ponsanooth⁶ forced us to change our plans. I waited in the car park of Mawnan Old Church, read John Keel's *The Mothman Prophecies*^{7,8} and waited for the TV crew as Alison drove to Falmouth.



JONATHAN DOWNES

WHALE I NEVER: Skull of the 'Durgan Dragon' after its rescue from a Falmouth school art department

I was in the middle of a 'take', walking with the presenter down a narrow path in the graveyard, while talking about cattle mutilations, when Alison returned and gave me a thumbs up sign. By this time I had convinced myself that I had the skull of a genuine sea serpent waiting for me in the back of our old transit van.

It was, however, a whale!

Mr Brown had said he thought it was probably the skull of a pilot whale.⁹ We were not so sure. The skull was definitely cetacean, with twin blowholes and a short 'beak', but did not appear to be one of the many toothed whales like a dolphin or a pilot whale.¹⁰ When I showed the skull to Karl Shuker three or four days later, he agreed that it was a whale, but couldn't identify the species.¹¹

In a frustrating week and a half, the Royal Albert Memorial Museum in Exeter, the Zoology departments of Exeter University and the University of Plymouth, Plymouth Museum and The Marine Laboratory at Plymouth failed to identify it. Eventually Dr Potts of Plymouth's new Aquarium identified it as being 'probably a pilot whale', and certainly one of the smaller toothed whales.¹²

Amusingly, it turned out that several of the scientists we had shown it to had been examining it the wrong way up.

The mystery was solved, but if Fortean researchers had looked in the right place it could of been solved years ago.

Several books report Mawnan-Peller's description of the finding of a 'carcass' on the beach¹³, but none that I have seen record that it was a headless skeleton. Only *Monstrum* by Doc Shiels acknowledged the theory that it was a whale.¹⁴

Because Doc is a notorious trickster, people, even Forteans who really should know better, tend to discount everything he says. He has been unfairly vilified for his part in the investigation of Morgawr and accused by some researchers of having made the whole thing up. The discovery of this skull vindicates him at least in part.

Doc is presently undertaking a media/art project involving Sea Heads [see *FT89:50*]. He wrote to me at the beginning of 1996 prophesying that during the succeeding 12 months sea serpents and sea heads would become very closely linked.¹⁵ The whale skull makes a very satisfying sea head.

The wise among us should keep scanning the shores for other sea heads, and 'as for the future I mean to be wise'.¹⁶

HOAXOLOGY

IT'S TRUE – I SAW IT ON THE TELLY

WHEN WE WATCH THE NEWS WE WANT TO SEE THE ACTION, BUT IS IT REALITY OR IS IT A FICTION DREAMT UP BY LESS THAN HONEST JOURNALISTS TO SATISFY OUR DEMANDS? ULRICH MAGIN SWITCHES ON AND WATCHES THE NEWS MAKERS



ULRICH MAGIN
IS A GERMAN FORTEAN
WHO EDITS THE
CRYPTO ZOOLOGY
NEWSLETTER BILK

Michael Born, aged 37, was a very special independent television journalist. He sold 22 documentaries to various public and private television channels in Germany and Switzerland. They were eagerly broadcast on some of the sensationalist TV programmes, but also on some very serious ones. And they were all faked.

Born was so successful because he was able to supply good pictures of topical problems very quickly. Telly needs interesting pictures, but some are hard to come by. Regardless of the subject, Born was better than most at satisfying demands.

When right-wing idiots sent a letter bomb to TV announcer Arabella Kiesbauer, Born assembled his friends, dressed them as the Nazis who claimed responsibility for the attack, filmed them and tried to sell the tape. Police later used the footage in their hunt for the 'terrorists'. Whatever was in the news, Born supplied the necessary pictures. He showed Kurds - or rather, his friends - building bombs. He showed the Ku Klux Klan burning crosses in the Eifel Mountains - same friends, once again, wearing white robes Born had tailored himself. He filmed a story about Arab drug smugglers at the German-Swiss border; his friends, again, with fake foreign accents. Illegal east European immigrants stealing German cars? Born's mates, putting on different accents, helped out once more.

Born's stories had some unusual repercussions. When he faked a documentary showing the Swedish furniture house IKEA exploiting child slave

labourers in India to make their carpets, the firm immediately cancelled their Indian contracts. They needn't have bothered; Born had simply bought an IKEA rug, taken it to India and staged the scenes. When Born needed a report on trigger-happy German hunters, he simply 'rescued' a cat from an animal welfare home, let it run loose and had it shot by one of his friends. No story was too contentious for his particular style of journalism.

Born's end came when a policeman noticed that the alleged authentic characters in the KKK and drug-smuggling videos had identical voices. None of the TV producers had spotted anything. Born now sits in jail awaiting trial. We would probably expect TV producers to be more sceptical and cynical than their viewers, but this is obviously not the case. Faced with the question of why the respected *Stern* TV didn't smell a rat (in one scene with the cat-killer, a glued-on beard nearly peeled off a character's face), the spokesperson in charge claimed that the viewers were guilty, because like Beavis and Butthead we demand more pictures and less information. It appears that because the viewers want sensational stories, the TV channels supply them. We expect TV producers to be more critical than we are, but they are not. TV producers believe in the power of the picture just as much as we do. Born's was not the first case of hoaxing of allegedly 'serious' media. When, in 1995, the German Minister for the Interior Manfred Kanther sent Sudanese refugees back to their homeland to face certain death, the magazine *Stern* ran a story claiming the refugees were indeed safe, as Kanther had claimed. A *Stern* journalist had talked to the refugees' parents and 'discovered' that the refugees simply wanted to take the German taxpayers' money. This was just what the public wanted to hear - 'the black guys are after our cash'. In fact, the whole story was a sick fake; the text was invented by a reporter, and the photos taken from a picture agency's file.

Our world is complex and we all want certainties, but things often become real news only when a cameraman happens to be close by. To many people, a television news story without pictures is senseless. It is now the norm for people to rely on TV documentaries or newspaper reports to form their opinion on any subject, from capital punishment to UFOs. The *Roswell* documentary, for example, filled a gap in the market, producing a new reality when the old one failed. I think that the viewers and readers are just as guilty of this sad state of affairs as the picture-happy TV producers who shut their minds when they get the footage they long for. It is a vicious circle of supply and demand that can only be broken if people stop believing everything they see and refrain from such hopeless activities as writing letters of congratulations to newly-wed soap-stars. Fort was so sceptical of the written word that he even doubted his own. I wonder what he'd have to say about the modern world of media-makers and media-viewers. In Jorge Luis Borges's *Tlön, Uqbar, Orbis Tertius*, an invented world slowly became reality. Switch on your TV - there you can see reality being invented, redefined, packaged and improved all the time. Perhaps, in some cases, fiction is truer than fact.

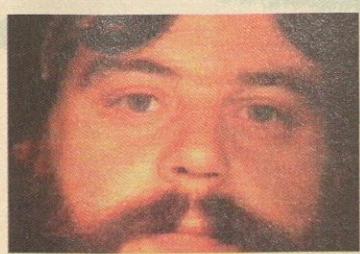
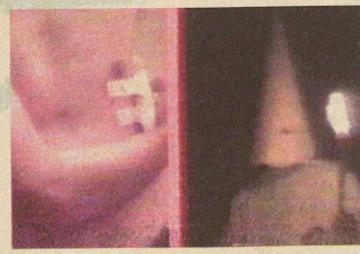


ILLUSTRATION: JOHN FARRELL

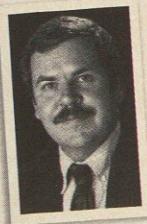


VIDEO NATION: [From left] Michael Born; 'Klansman' prepares to burn a cross; comparing the 'Kurdish bombers' and the 'Klansmen' revealed voice pattern similarities; Born's friends play at being terrorists



TIME TO GIVE THEM A NAME

WHILE ETYMOLOGISTS ARE FALLING OVER THEMSELVES TO FIND OUT WHO FIRST COINED THE ACRONYM UFO, THE SKY WATCHERS ARE STRUGGLING TO THROW OFF THE EXTRATERRESTRIAL BAGGAGE THAT THE TERM CARRIES WITH IT



DENNIS STACY
IS EDITOR OF THE MUFON
UFO JOURNAL AND CO-
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER
OF THE ANOMALIST.
HE WAS THE RECIPIENT
OF THE 1995 DONALD E
KEYHOE JOURNALISM
AWARD.

Since I write about UFOs on a more or less regular basis in this space, it seems only meet to get a few terms out of the way. UFO, as defined by *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, 3rd Edition, means unidentified flying object, of course. The dictionary also lists ufology (the study of UFOs), along with the adjective ufological and the noun ufologist. (How much longer, by the way, before the etymological powers that be wake up and give us our Forteana and Fortean?)

UFO has pretty much superseded the once popular "flying saucer" in polite parlance, when there is polite parlance about the subject. Both terms came into use at roughly the same time, less than 50 years ago, and, not surprisingly, their exact origins are surrounded by some uncertainty. Jerome Clark gives us the genesis of flying saucer in his massive (and indispensable) three-volume *UFO Encyclopedia*. On 24 June, 1947, private pilot Kenneth Arnold reported nine, silvery crescent-, not disk-shaped objects flying near Mount Rainier in Washington

State. Arnold, interviewed that same day by Associated Press reporter Bill Bequette, said that the objects flew with a dipping motion, like a rock or saucer skipping over water. It was an anonymous headline writer, probably forever lost to historical credit, who coined the phrase "flying saucers" that greeted the world with the next morning's newspaper and cup of coffee. Although the words were technically inaccurate to describe what Arnold had seen, they stuck to the phenomenon like the proverbial glue, unlike the first time such a description had been used in print.

According to Jacques Vallee's *Anatomy of a Phenomenon*, on 24 January 1878, a Texas farmer 6 miles (9.5km) north of Dallas had his attention attracted to a dark object high in the northern sky.

John Martin said that it appeared to be about the size of an orange

when first seen, "going through space at a wonderful speed". When

"directly over him it was about the size of a large saucer and was

evidently at a great height". Presumably, Martin was talking about

the apparent size of the object at some close, but unknown distance,

not to its real size at a great distance. Alas, Martin's flying

saucer is now an obscure historical footnote, whereas Kenneth

Arnold is widely viewed as the man who "gave" us flying saucers

in the modern sense of UFOs. No-one ever said that the world of

Forteana was fair.

And whence UFO? Capt. Edward J Ruppelt, director of the Air

Force's Project Blue Book and author of *The Report on*

Unidentified Flying Objects, says unequivocally on the first page of

the first chapter in the latter that "UFO is the official term that I

created to replace the words 'flying saucers,'" an action taken,

Ruppelt explains elsewhere, to reduce the subject's ridicule factor.

But this isn't as clear cut as it sounds on first hearing, either.

Before Blue Book, for example, there had been Projects Sign and Grudge. Ruppelt took over Grudge sometime in early 1951, shortly before the final name change. He left both Blue Book and the Air Force in September of 1953. As Ruppelt notes himself, however (Report, Ace paperback, p91), in December of 1949, Grudge had released a final 600-page report "officially titled 'Unidentified Flying Objects - Project Grudge,' Technical Report No. 102-AC-49/15-100. But it was widely referred to as the Grudge Report".

In other words, some probably non-commissioned Air Force staffer had coined the phrase Unidentified Flying Objects a full year or

more before Ruppelt even took up the study, and well over six or

seven years before his Report appeared in 1956. So perhaps

Ruppelt was only claiming credit for creation of the acronym UFO?

Does it really matter who first coined what and when? Certainly it does to the historian and etymologist, and probably to the sociologist and any other student of the ins and outs of human culture, its makings, artifacts and effects. But it should also matter to the would-be ufologist. Because the problem is that both UFO and flying saucer carry automatic (and unconfirmed) connotations and assumptions, primarily that of extraterrestrial origin, when that may or may not be the case. In practice, more than 90 per cent of UFO reports prove to be IFOs - Identified Flying Objects, usually of mundane origin - after thorough investigation.

Scientific circles in general tend to frown on the practice of defining the subject of study prior to the completion of the study itself, especially of something as controversial as alleged extraterrestrial spaceships from another planet and their alien pilots. Some ufologists have recognised the philosophical dilemma themselves and tried to rectify it. Jenny Randles and other English ufologists, for example, have proposed the acronym UAP - for Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon. An American, Bruce Maccabee, has even gone so far as to suggest TRUFO, for - after investigation, of course - "True UFOs."

The trouble with UAP is that it has history and common usage against it and lacks the "ring" of UFO as it rolls off the tongue. So UFO it will be, with the proviso that is what is being referred to is the UFO report itself, and not necessarily the object.

UNSPEAKABLE NAME GAMES

WHEN HP LOVECRAFT INTRODUCED THE WORLD TO THE *NECRONOMICON* HE SET IN MOTION A GIANT SNOWBALL THAT HAS GATHERED MOMENTUM AND PICKED UP DEBRIS ON ITS 50-YEAR ROLL. DAVID LANGFORD DIGS A HOLE FOR IT TO FALL INTO



DAVID LANGFORD
IS AN AWARD-WINNING
SCIENCE FICTION WRITER

Of all the sinister grimoires featured in horror fiction and dark fantasy, one accursed book is indisputably the most famous. This is, in the words of HP Lovecraft, "the hideous *Necronomicon* of the mad Arab Abdul Alhazred".

Lovecraft translated *Necronomicon* as 'Book of Dead Names', but his Greek was shaky: it's more like 'Book of Dead Laws'. In his stories, the tome contains soul-searing secrets of elder beings who dwelt on Earth before us and (heavy, ominous chords on soundtrack) will come again. Like the "root races" of Theosophy, they are a ghastly and gelatinous crew, with names like Cthulhu, Azathoth and Yog-Sothoth... and although Lovecraft died in 1937, others have been writing about this gang of heavies ever since.

All this is called the 'Cthulhu Mythos' and the *Necronomicon* is its bible. Inevitably, some people feel this unspeakable book must exist: so much has been written about it. Even Terry Pratchett has spoofed it as the *Necrotelecomicon*, alias the *Liber Paginarum Fulvarum* or *Book of Yellow Pages*.

Lovecraft claimed the book was all a joke and at the same time teased his readers by elaborating its bibliography. According to this, Alhazred or Al-Hazred (allegedly a pun on Lovecraft's mother's surname, Hazard) wrote the book in Arabic under the title *Al Azif* in about 730 AD; as a natural result he was publicly devoured by an invisible monster in 738 AD. Many translations of his life-work were supposedly made, notably Theodorus Philetas's

Greek *Necronomicon* of 950 AD and Olaus Wormius's 1228 AD Latin version. (Wormius was a real person, but unfortunately of the 16th/17th centuries, not the 13th.) The never-published English translation was reputedly made by legendary wizard Dr John Dee during the reign of Elizabeth I. Every version contains dread formulæ for opening gateways to the Old Ones, and lesser magical lore such as how to make the Voorish Sign - no doubt particularly dangerous to the soul if you make it at a policeman.

The historical *Necronomicon*, insist the sceptics, never existed. Yes, it has been listed in dealers' catalogues, but only as a joke. Yes, there was an index card for it in the Yale University Library - smuggled in by pranksters. But the issue is clouded by several authentic *Necronomicons*. No-one was seriously confused when HR Giger of *Alien* design fame used the title for a collection of his creepy 'bio-mechanoid' art. At least four books, however, claim to be or to reconstruct the original *Necronomicon*.

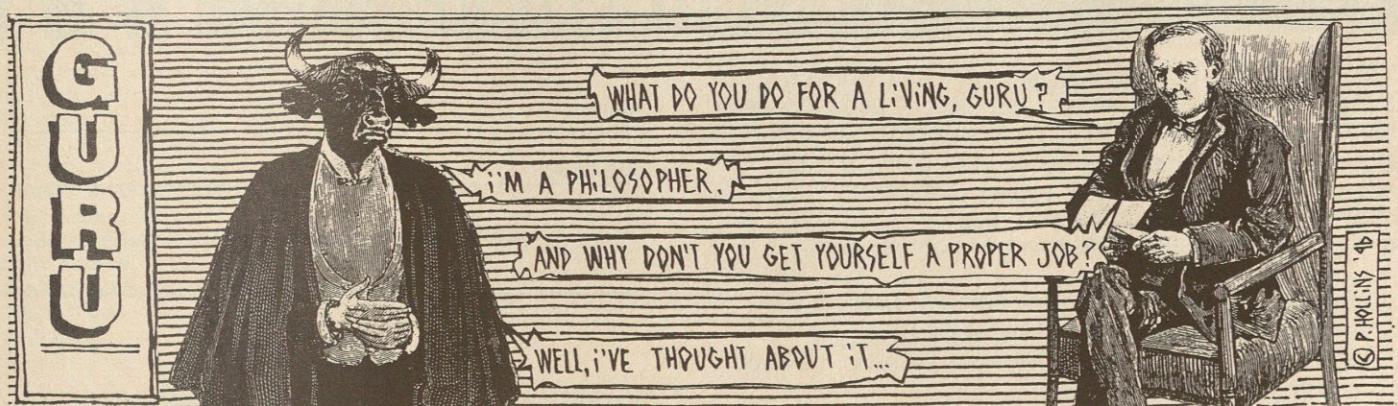
The most difficult to trace is the alleged *Necronomicon* which (according to one of the tales that go around Internet) was privately published by Lyon Sprague de Camp in 1907, and plagiarized by Lovecraft. As noted in the excellent *Encyclopedia of Science Fiction* (1993) edited by John Clute and Peter Nicholls, this is the full name of the long-time science fiction writer L Sprague de Camp, who was born in 1907. Do you smell a rat? And does the smell grow stronger with the information that de Camp's useful *Lovecraft: A Biography* (1975) says much about the *Necronomicon* without ever mentioning this edition?

The most audacious *Necronomicon* is the 1973 US art-book from Owlswick Press (a tiny SF/fantasy outfit). Its central 172 pages are based on eight calligraphic sheets of cod-Arabic or sort-of-Syriac script, untranslated and untranslatable - which are repeated 24 times to fill out the book. A work too dangerous to translate!

Then there's the 1977 *Necronomicon* edited by 'Simon' that assembles a lot of apparently genuine translations of cuneiform tablets found by archaeologists in Iraq. So mostly it's straight Sumerian and Assyrian mythology, with the usual translation gaps - which 'Simon' has cunningly filled in with references to Cthulhu & Co., plus some dreary material about ritual magic.

In 1978, a mostly British team led by George Hay published *The Necronomicon: The Book of Dead Names*. The title page is, allegedly, from Dr Dee's lost translation, published in 1571. Colin Wilson helped reconstruct a long and deadpan introduction; Robert Turner helped reconstruct magical rituals and signs from the dread work; L Sprague de Camp (again) and Angela Carter provided footnotes about Lovecraft's life and work. And the use of a giant mainframe computer to decipher Dee's tables of magical symbols - and thus extract the *Necronomicon* itself - was described at tedious length by a crypto-analytical 'expert' called, ahem, David Langford. Do you smell another rat?

Now it is time to reveal the truth. But wait! The horror, the eldritch horror! That blasphemous entity from the charnel pits is coming up my garden path.... I can... write... no more... Argh! Cthulhu! Ouch!



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DOMESTIC URINALS

With reference to the letter from David Taylor concerning urine appearing in a Birmingham house [FT92:49]; some years ago we also experienced this phenomenon when urine appeared in covered pans and casseroles and also flooded the cooker at various times. We asked the county analyst to identify it and were told it was urine from a carnivorous animal. We owned no pets then. The suggestion was that it could be from a badger or large hedgehog - either of which I am pretty sure I would have noticed.

The phenomenon stopped after about a year, which was a great relief to me as I was spending a fortune on disinfectants and bleaches. It wasn't ever on the floor, but always in containers; the frying pan was a favourite repository. Goodness knows what was responsible - I am just thankful it has gone away. Odd happenings abound in this old house, but we can cope with them, just as long as the phantom piddler keeps away.

*Roz Wolseley-Charles
Malvern, Worcestershire*

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JAR SUCKER

Even since I first heard about that naughty *Chupacabras* in Puerto Rico [FT89:34], I felt certain that I'd heard the phrase "Goat Sucker" before. After much searching I stumbled across "To Wit! To Woo?" written by the notorious Doc Shiel in August 1978 [FT27:46]. Doc states that the Cornish Owlman first appeared to him in a dream as a large whippoorwill (an American name for the nightjar), a bird commonly known as a goat-sucker. "The name 'goat-sucker,'" he wrote, "conjures up thoughts of midnight witchery (and pink gaping mouths). Why was this innocent insect-eating little bird given such an emotive name? Has it, some time, been seen sucking goats? And were they she or he-goats?"

For myself, I consider it a Fortean event in itself that two creatures could be independently nicknamed with such a peculiar monicker.

*Anthony Turner
Tuxford, Nottinghamshire*

TEDDY ABDUCTION

I'd like to relay a strange memory from my childhood which surfaced recently after I became a regular *FT* reader. I was born in a small suburban house in Southampton in 1963, and lived there until I was five. One of my earliest memories is of a teddy, which my parents seem to think was one of my third birthday presents.

I loved Teddy. He was just the best thing that had ever happened to me. One night I took him to bed as usual, and we fell asleep in our customary posture, with my thumb and forefinger firmly clasped around his neck. In the morning he was gone! I remember crying frantically, and the whole family helped strip my room in the search; but Teddy was nowhere to be found. I couldn't reach the window catch, nor could I have sleepwalked out of the front or back doors (both firmly locked) and left Teddy somewhere outside.

Teddy was replaced quickly, but 'Patch', in his pirate costume and the eye-wear which inspired his name, was never Teddy. I recently asked my parents about the episode. Mum and Dad remember the incident clearly, and admit to being as confused at the time as I still am now.

Is it possible that the Greys needed Teddy for some horrific experiment? Were they aiming for me and got confused? Was he ditched later? Did anyone find a surgically altered Teddy in 1967? Do any other readers have memories of missing toys? Was Teddy the only known soft toy abductee?

*Simon Moss
London*

ANCESTRAL CANNIBAL

I write the day after receiving my copy of *FT* with the tale of cabin boy Richard Parker's death by cannibalism and the coincidences which crop up whenever his name is mentioned [FT92:32]. This morning I was roused by a phone call from a friend, asking me to help him compose a letter to his employer with whom he is in dispute over the withholding of sick pay. After composing the letter, we went along to a local advice centre to find out what the legal position was, and then went for coffee. My pal told me that Terry Dudley, his boss, was interested in genealogy "and one of his ancestors was a sea captain who was done for eating a cabin boy without drawing lots..." My pal wasn't an *FT* reader (though I reckon he will be now!) and the relevant issue of *FT* was not yet on sale in the shops.

*Carlton B Morgan
Newport, Gwent*

THE SCREEN OF THE OWL

Chris Precious's encounter with an owl, and his subsequent discovery of a period of "missing time" [FT91:53] put me in mind of Whitley Strieber's mention in his book *Communion* of the owl as one kind of screen memory for the [alien] abduction experience. Evading arguments as to whether such experiences, as revealed by hypnosis, represent real or subjective events, I wonder if Mr Precious would find himself reporting a similar abduction experience if he too were to undergo hypnotic regression?

*Sean Tudor
Maidstone, Kent*

TOLD YOU SO

Secret Country 22 featured the Rollright Stones in Oxfordshire [FT87:43]. Curiosity piqued, I located the stones with my girlfriend and spent a couple of hours wandering around the three sites. I knelt down at the centre of the "King's Men" circle and started taking photographs. "Don't do that!" shouted an old gent at the entrance. He said no pictures taken from that position would develop and told me how an American tourist's videocamera batteries (fresh in) had run down on the same spot in a couple of minutes.

I took this warning with a pinch of salt and thought nothing more of it... until my film came back from the developers with a credit note stating that they were unable to retrieve anything from it. Can anyone provide a satisfactory explanation?

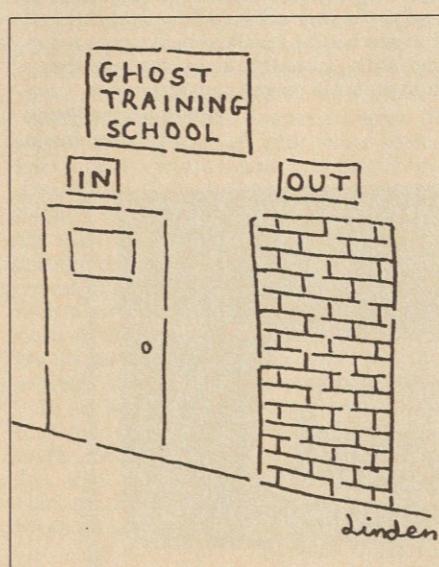
*Mike Upton
Watford, Hertfordshire*

SPINNING IN SYNC

Mr Whitehead of South London called on 27 August 1996. Unbidden, and without preamble, he described his invention, a device for contradicting a physical law, "the conservation of angular momentum". Some days later, a letter dated 27 August arrived from a Mr Thompson of the Isle of Wight in which he described the same invention and with the same property. In his words: "That is what I mean when I say that spin is not conserved". How's that for synchronicity?

*Mr D Letts
London*

Editors' note: This brings to mind Fort's remark in Lo! (1931): 'A tree cannot find out, as it were, how to blossom, until comes blossom-time. A social growth cannot find out the use of steam engines, until comes steam-engine-time.'





ARC LIGHTS AND VOICES

I think I can explain the lights and voices observed by Steve Jeanes at the BBC World Service transmitter site near Crowborough [FT87:54]. Many transmitter engineers are familiar with a phenomenon known as a modulated arc. A flashover (usually as a result of high levels of static during a thunderstorm as Mr Jeanes described) initiates an arc across insulators in the mast's guy wires. This arc is then sustained by the radio frequency (RF) energy from the transmitter. Voices or music are heard as variations in intensity of the arc because the power in the RF is varied (or modulated) by the transmitted programme.

The arc would be clearly visible as lights and their colour variation was probably due to different amounts of corrosion on the guy wires or mast.

During the darkest period of World War II, such an arc at a BBC transmitter (probably Crowborough again) occurred during a storm. The programme being broadcast was in German. These voices booming out in the night were said to have caused considerable consternation among the local Home Guard! This particular story might of course be apocryphal. Nevertheless, it, and others like it, demonstrate the clarity and volume of this phenomenon.

Ian Liston-Smith

Engineer, BBC Monitoring, Reading

Regarding the letter about the sound of a radio broadcast coming from the aerial: In 1913, US radio engineers went to set up station HCJB ("The Voice of the Andes") in Quito, Ecuador. They tried to use 10kW through a four-element Yagi beam antenna (just like a terrestrial TV aerial) at 10,000ft. When the station started broadcasting, there were corona discharges at the tips of the beam elements. I quote: "The music and

programmes of HCJB could be clearly heard through the quiet night air of the city."

Unfortunately, this meant that the antenna was melting. Clarence C Moore (W9LZX) had to solve this problem. His first attempt was to put lavatory ball-cock balls on the end of each element of the beam. This helped, but it de-tuned the beam and the problem recurred in damp weather. Mr Moore buried himself in reference books and three years later the cubical-quad beam antenna design was born, installed and operated without any corona discharge (it has no high-impedance points). It might be that because of the thunderstorm and the resultant air-ionisation, the same phenomenon occurred in Mr Jeanes's experience.

P Harris (64BDQ)
Southampton, Hampshire

Some years ago, a transmitter engineer working on high power radio equipment heard voices emanating from a corona discharge around the high power output valves. This effect was later developed into a high quality speaker for reproducing high frequencies known commercially as the ionofane. There were no moving parts in this type of tweeter, and thus no colouration from the diaphragm as found in traditional units. However the idea never caught on (I suspect because of the cost of replacing the electrodes which had a finite life).

Many years ago I recall passing the BBC Droitwich transmitter and hearing the programme from a rusty ash tray inside a friend's aging VW motorcaravan, the rust forming a simple metal oxide rectifier or diode. It may be that Mr Jeanes's phantom voices were caused by oxides in the joints of the radio mast acting as diodes, and/or a corona discharge from the transmitter aerial.

Roger Waldron
Sutton-on-Trent, Nottinghamshire

MYSTERIOUS JELLY IS PLANT-FOOD FOR THOUGHT

On 1 May this year I noticed that the two planters near the front door had what I took to be irregular ice crystals in them. As it had just rained I thought that it might have been a freak ice fall.

I shouted for my flat mate Kath to come and have a look. On closer scrutiny we found that the "ice" crystals were in fact a clear jelly that glittered in the sunlight just like ice. Both pots had been topped up

Marie Shrewsbury
Kirkstall, Leeds



NELLIE STRAW'S FROG FALL

I can throw some light on the shower of frogs experienced by Mrs Nellie Straw [FT87:11]. Mrs Straw wrote to me after I had appealed for information on tornadoes, waterspouts, other whirlwinds, ball lightning and showers of unusual objects, in the *Sheffield Journal* (8 June 1984). "We had been on a camping holiday and thought to spend our last night at Glencoe, which has a smashing camping site, but when we arrived they had a terrific storm, tents down everywhere. We decided to head straight back to Kirkintilloch, and it was after that, in the early hours, when we saw what we thought was hundreds of leaves floating in front of our ears. But suddenly [we] realised they were small frogs. Unbelievable. Then all at once we were away from them". Mrs Straw said that the event was "at least 10 years ago" (ie 1974 or earlier) and that they drove through the frogs for "a mile or so".

Mike Rowe
Tornado and Storm Research Organisation, Lymington, Hampshire

X MARKS THE SPOT

The curious 'X' in the sky photographed by Pietro Sorce [FT92:51] is most likely made by two aircraft vapour trails. Wind has a strong effect on these trails and at different altitudes the wind might be blowing in different directions; this is further suggested by the two crossing vapour trails below the 'X'. However, I wouldn't put it past two highly experienced fighter pilots to be playing games.

JF Webb
(Retired USAF Crew Chief)
Wantage, Oxfordshire

BOTTLED NOISE

For the past couple of years I have been aware of an intermittently audible low frequency hum in the environment for which I can find no explanation. It occurs at irregular intervals and varies in duration between one and 10 seconds. I can best describe it as similar to the sound one gets when blowing into the neck of a bottle. I particularly notice the sound during the night, or at quiet times during the day. Living in a rural part of Ayrshire, I nevertheless associated the hum with some sort of industrial process. However, spending holidays in a remote part of the Hebrides, my husband and I occasionally hear the same sound. Having ruled out imaginary sounds, ear problems, fog horns and industrial processes, I am keen to find an explanation. Any ideas?

Mazda Munn
Dalry, Ayrshire

YOUNGEST READER?

I was 10 in May and read your magazine regularly.

Alexander Hislop
Barnsley, Yorkshire

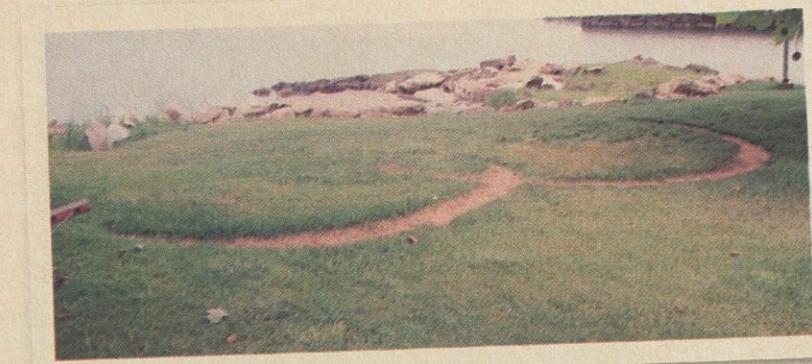
THE STONY CREEK GODDESS

The acclaimed photographer Joel Baldwin and his wife Hannah live with their two sons on Long Island Sound northeast of New Haven, Connecticut, on Stony Creek, a promontory of land overlooking the Thimble Islands, a quaint archipelago of 26 rocky outcroppings. One night last May, a strange marking appeared in their newly-mown lawn.

Intrigued by the peculiarly symmetrical design of the ashen, flattened grass, they enlisted the opinion of Sharon Douglas, a plant pathologist from the nearby Connecticut Agricultural Experimental Station in New Haven, who issued a report on the basis of a soil sample.

"Upon initial examination," wrote Ms Douglas, "I noted that the affected turf was dead and straw-like and there was an abrupt, highly defined transition between the symptomatic and healthy green portions... I noted a very strong ammonia-like odour... I sent a sample of the soil to Mr Greg Bugbee of the Department of Soil and Water for analysis... Results of the soil test indicate an extremely alkaline pH (pH 9.0) and an excessive level of ammonium nitrogen.

"When Mr Bugbee and I discovered these results, we were unable to identify a specific cause since such extreme readings are rarely associated with over-fertilisation or even fertiliser spills. However, if one considers your description of the highly unusual, distinctive 'w-shaped'



pattern, approximately 10ft long and 10in wide, one might suspect a prank or mischievous application of compounds such as concentrated ammonia or an ammonia-bleach solution."

According to the Baldwins, this explanation, although of course possible, is unlikely considering the absence of any similar phenomena in the area in recent history. A friend named Shara, visiting from Woodstock, New York, happened to be wearing a pendant in the form of a mythological goddess that bore an uncanny resemblance to the odd graffiti in the grass.

Hannah's nephew also noted that the form described upon the ground is known in mathematics as a cycloid, defined as a path made by a point on the rim of a wheel as it is rolled in a plane along a

KING MOB'S REVENGE

The comic book writer Grant Morrison has suffered some slightly bizarre misfortunes. He is responsible (among other things) for a comic called *The Invisibles*. One of the chief characters, "King Mob", is subjected to several issues' worth of torture. During this period he is led to believe that his face is being eaten away by bacteria, and he suffers a collapsed lung. Shortly afterwards, Morrison developed an abscess on his face (leaving him looking like the son of the Elephant Man) and then was rushed to hospital with a diagnosis of pneumonia and a possible collapsed lung.

During the torture sequence, "King Mob" claims to be a writer called Kirk Morrison responsible for a series of stories about a character named Gideon Stargrave - whom Grant Morrison created back in his teenage years. To further complicate the issue, Morrison has something of a reputation for tackling the relationship between writer and creation in his previous comics (from writer as God in *Animal Man* to character as God in *Flex Mentallo*). While this new development is almost certainly coincidental, it is somewhat intriguing, given his themes. Either way, Morrison seems to be playing it safe as he has promised to give "King Mob" an easy time of it for the foreseeable future...

Chris Preece
Burley, Leeds

ARE YOU SHAW?

I have been prompted by your ghost features [FT92:34] to report an unusual encounter a friend and I had in a well populated area.

In July 1996, We were walking along Charing Cross Road, London, at around lunchtime on a Wednesday, heading towards Cambridge Circus. Just as we were passing the Murder One bookshop, a man whom I can only describe as the playwright George Bernard Shaw walked straight past us. My friend saw him too. "GBS" was dressed in a very unusual (for 1996) lime green 1920s "country" suit, woollen, sharply cut, breast pockets. He was 60 or 70 years old, with white slicked hair a bushy white beard, and bright blue eyes which locked right onto me as we passed. My friend and I turned to watch the man as he continued down the road, certain that we'd seen GBS himself. Of course it's likely that we saw an old man with a proclivity for Edwardian dress, but no-one else gave him a second look despite his archaic dress. How many of them had actually seen what we'd seen?

In the last issue you printed several tales of ghosts in their "traditional" settings: at night, historical locations, lone witnesses. But what about daytime ghosts seen in busy modern areas? And did GBS have bright blue eyes?

Thomas Blacktree
London

ANTI-WEIRD DRUGS

Albert Budden's article on poltergeists [FT92:23] adds an interesting dimension to the possible mechanisms of so-called "mental illness". As a psychotherapist, I have long believed in the mechanism of legitimate psychosis, ie. forms of insanity that are sanctioned by society. I have often mused over how an individual can see (or hallucinate) an apparition, believe in what they see (or become delusional) for it to exist within objective reality, and construct an explanatory belief system to defend against scepticism or logical challenge.

A similar pattern occurs with those labelled "paranoid schizophrenic" whose beliefs are identified as abnormal or psychotic. I guess it depends on just how tolerant the individual's culture is of the belief or on the entertainment or commercial value of the belief.

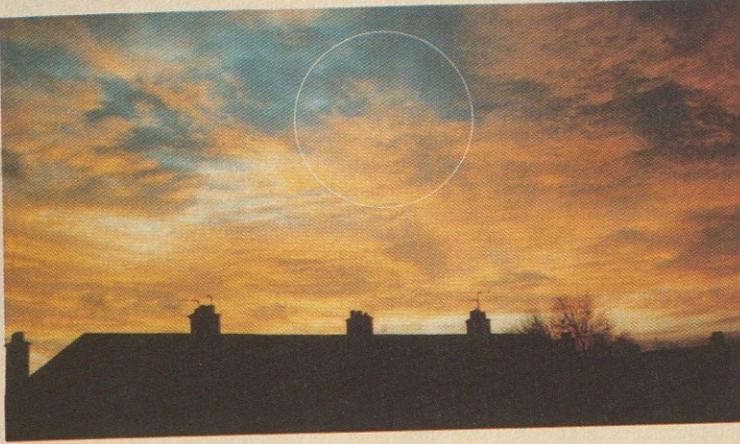
You earlier mentioned an Indian gentleman whose "demonic possession" disappeared after treatment with neuroleptic medication [FT79:18]. I wonder what effect similar medication would have on such beliefs as alien abduction, hauntings and clairvoyance. But then I guess mass neuroleptic administration would rob us of a world of weirdness the same way that it robs the sense of self from those diagnosed as being supposedly "schizophrenic".

Andrew T Austin
Southampton, Hampshire



Letters

PERVERSE OMENS



Three years ago I was boasting that I hadn't an enemy in the world. Just after this I photographed a face in the sky that resembled Mr Spock from *Star Trek* looking towards my house. This was published in the *Oxford Mail* (31 October 1995). From then on I started to get all sorts of trouble from neighbours and friends. This consisted of being called a

pervert, having things stolen from my house, and having stones and eggs thrown at my house at night in an attempt to drive me out. It was as if a demon had taken over their minds. Proof that there really is an evil invisible intelligence that can control people's minds and feelings.

John A Selby
Abingdon, Oxfordshire

I'M NO GHOST!

In 1958 I was enjoying my annual summer holiday with a handful of other children on a vast Kenyan cattle farm at Machakos, 40 miles from Nairobi, owned by a young English family.

The eldest at 12, I had my own room, unlike the others who shared "dormitories". It was a small dressing room reached via the bathroom. The door between the bathroom and dressing room was the only way in and out, and the single window to the dressing room was heavily barred to prevent intruders. The farmhouse formed a large U-shaped bungalow around a central lawned courtyard. At that time there was no electricity on the farm, and lighting was by kerosene lamps.

One evening we sat playing cards and telling ghost stories to frighten each other and ourselves, which we did. I went to bed slightly jumpy, but after locking myself into the dressing-room with the heavy 6in (15cm) long key, I soon fell asleep.

I awoke suddenly to see at the foot of the bed a figure, about 8ft (2.4m) tall, apparently draped in a beige sheet. It slowly and silently raised its arms upwards from its sides, and in terror I leapt up and rushed from the room, yelling, my heart beating so hard and fast that it felt it would burst. As I raced across the courtyard, some adults charged out, the men with guns, the women shouting excitedly.

Breathlessly I explained that there was a huge ghost in my room. This caused great amusement, and I was shepherded into the house, filled with cocoa and biscuits and a little tot of brandy, and assured that I'd had a nightmare. About an hour later I had calmed down sufficiently and two of the women took me back to my room. The

dressing room door was locked.

"Where's the key?" they asked.
"I haven't got it," I replied.

"Well you must have, because the door is locked."

"I didn't come out of that door," I answered, "I went through the other one."

"There isn't another door. You must have come through this one. Now what have you done with the key? Do you think you dropped it?"

I kept explaining that I hadn't stopped to unlock the door, and had run through the other door, but of course I knew there wasn't another door.

By the light of the kerosene lamp we searched high and low in the courtyard for the missing key, without success. The men were summoned, and using a piece of metal found the key still in the lock, inside the dressing room. It was carefully pushed out through the keyhole onto a sheet of cardboard and retrieved through the gap beneath the door.

We stood staring at the key, the adults amused and impressed by what they thought was a clever trick. I continued insisting that I had not come through the door, and soon their amusement turned to irritation. I couldn't have climbed through the window, because it was barred.

As we could all quite clearly see, the place where I said I had run from the room was occupied by a large wardrobe standing in front of a thick stone wall. For several days the event was discussed with equal measures of amusement and irritation, as there was no rational explanation, and eventually the subject was dropped and faded. I have never since had any similar experience.

Susie Hiscock
St Romain en Charroux, France

SMOKE WITHOUT FIRE

My old friend Forrest Edmond Powell, known as 'Pikey', died on 23 April 1993 at the age of 79, and his funeral was held at the Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Evanston, Illinois, on 29 April. The mourners viewed the body and then the casket was closed. Shortly afterwards, I looked up and saw smoke rising up and I thought someone down near the front was smoking. Then I saw that the smoke was coming from the foot of the casket. As I watched, it made a little cloud about 10ft (3m) up, eddied round in a circle and slowly spiralled over to where the family was sitting. There, it hovered over Verna Jenkins Powell, Pikey's wife of 49 years, before disappearing.

At the end of the service, I asked the minister if I could speak and I told the congregation what I had seen. Afterwards, during refreshments in the basement, a young man told me that his wife had also seen the smoke. She had told him that someone was down in front smoking and he said she was crazy. Then she approached me and confirmed what he had said. I held up her hand where the people could see her and said: "This woman is a witness, too."

I learned later that Pikey had appeared to his wife and daughter sitting in their living room on the day before his funeral. He came in from the kitchen, stood in front of them and twice said that he was happy and not to worry about him because he was with his mother and father. He then walked back into the kitchen and vanished. One of his sons came to me about a month later and said he had also seen the smoke in the church and had told his mother about it; but he had not seen where it had come from nor the spiralling that I had witnessed. I have talked to psychics, but no-one has told me of anything like it.

Benjamin F Jackson
Evanston, Illinois

BUSY LINES IN BELGIUM

When calling my niece, whom I had not seen for a long time, I found her with her fingers on the buttons while she was trying to phone me (the line was busy, it was me trying to phone her). The same thing has happened to me again and again with several persons to whom I relate in an emotional manner, although we might see (or phone) each other just once or twice a year. It's always at a totally unexpected time or place that I feel an urge to call some of these people and then it happens again.

Even *Fortean Times* seems to take place in all this. Trying to order my FT copy in an Antwerp bookstore, I found the customer in front of me asking the bookstore manager, "Are you able to get me a copy of an English magazine. It's called the *Fortean Times*. That's F.O..."

"Make it two!" I replied while the other customer and I looked at each other a bit dizzily. Very strange when you know that the magazine is unfortunately almost unknown in Belgium.

Gunter Segers
Ruisbroek, Belgium

Experience altered states - legally!

Tune in and turn on to shut out everyday pressures - and unleash the natural resources of your mind - writes Chris Payne

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Then in the late 1940s a British neuroscientist, W. Gray Walter, measured the effects of an electronic strobe using an EEG, which monitors brainwave activity.

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RANDLES'S HANDLE ON THE PARANORMAL

PARANORMAL SOURCE BOOK

JENNY RANDELLS. LONDON: PIATKUS, 1996. PB, £9.99, pp250, INDEX, PLATES, MAPS & DIAGRAMS, BIB, ADDRESSES. ISBN 0-7499-1411-4.

LIFE AFTER DEATH AND THE WORLD BEYOND

JENNY RANDLES & PETER HOUGH. LONDON: PIATKUS, 1996. HB. £16.99, pp174, INDEX, PHOTOS, ILLUS, BIB, ADDRESSES. ISBN 0-7499-1681-8.

who wishes to read further into any particular subject.

It's hard to fault Randles's approach and even harder to fault the information itself. Displaying a commendably Fortean attitude, she gives several points of view on each subject, rarely displaying any leaning towards a particular opinion. Any bias comes more in the form of giving emphasis to theories of which the general reader might not be aware. For example, in the chapter on UFOs, Randles gently emphasises the non-extraterrestrial hypothesis (ETH) approach; a new reader might not be aware that alternatives to the ETH even exist. Moreover, each chapter is well assembled and clearly thought out, giving reasonable, non-technical introductions to even such abstruse subjects as Earth Mysteries.

anything) happens after death. It takes in various religions' accounts of the afterlife - and is to be admired for placing each squarely in its social context - and explores the wide variety of alternative beliefs subscribed to by groups such as Spiritualists.

It's a visually pleasing book; the illustrations are colourful and well chosen. Some of the early sections spend too long going over familiar ground, especially when covering traditions of the afterlife, and the marshalling of information seems a little haphazard. There are one or two moments where things seem to go a bit odd, such as the section on 'The Garden of Eden' in which a passage from the *Aeneid* is apparently paraphrased as a description of purgatory. Citing a pre-Christian author as an authority on a

SHE OFFERS SEVERAL POINTS OF VIEW, RARELY SHOWING ANY BIAS

concept introduced relatively late to the Christian belief-system is a bit suspect.

Two new books from one of the best known writers on the paranormal in Britain, and a mixed pair they make. *The Paranormal Source Book* is one of several general guides to strange phenomena to appear recently, no doubt spurred by the success of the *X-Files* and company. As one might expect, the quality of these is enormously variable, but Randles has done a creditable job with the *Source Book*, especially when one bears in mind the obvious limitations inherent in introducing the general reader to the field.

general reader to the field. She has taken a reasonably uncomplicated approach, taking one substantial chapter to address each of a list of topics. Areas covered include alien abductions, ESP, crop circles, miracle images and healing. Each chapter contains a definition of its subject and a historical overview, along with details of experiences, research and recent developments. Importantly, each chapter finishes with a detailed set of sources for the reader



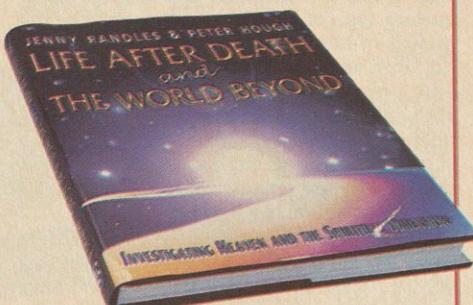
BLESS YOU: Helen Duncan supposedly producing ectoplasm

The only reservation I have about the *Source Book* is that some of the evidence cited in the various sections seems to tend to personal experience. For example, the chapter on Life After Death features the following: "One night, a mother found her young daughter talking to an 'invisible man' on the stairs..." No names, location or date, other than a later mention that it took place in 1988. Although Randles no doubt has her reasons - protecting the privacy of those involved, for example, or lack of space - and bearing in mind that this is not an attempt at a definitive encyclopaedia of the paranormal, this vagueness can be frustrating and can only add to the constant dismissal of personal reports by sceptics as 'anecdotal'.

Apart from that small criticism, the book as a whole is a good entry-level guide to paranormal goings-on.

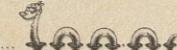
Sadly, the same can't really be said for Randles and Hough's *Life After Death and the World Beyond*. It's a reasonable read and well-produced, but fails to grab the interest as forcefully as the *Source Book*. Ultimately, one is left with the feeling that it would have made an excellent long article, but is rather stretched as a book.

As the title implies, *Life After Death* examines various accounts of what (if



THE HALLELUJAH REVOLUTION: The Rise of the New Christians

Ian Cotton



Reports of strange experiences, supernatural powers, transformations of personality and encounters with deities, angels and demons are not uncommon in Fortean literature. Nor are tales of visits to psychologist Michael Persinger's 'dungeon' at Laurentian University, in Canada, with its attendant electrical stimulation of the brain to produce visionary effects. Recently, it has seemed that with Persinger, all things are possible.

The *Hallelujah Revolution* however, does something quite new, and does it well. It places all these events - and the Persinger experience - in the context of what the author calls the 'New Christians'. These Christians are certainly different from the ones I knew in the Church of England. They are vigorous, caring, deeply committed to their faith, and they - most of them, anyway - display their faith in practical works, operating in the areas where they live to provide the sort of caring, training and personal support that our government can't or won't fund any more. Here, there is plenty about Pecan, a remarkable project based in Peckham. If you can do good works in Peckham, you can do them anywhere.

The Christianity is somewhere on the Evangelical/Charismatic axis, with elements of the 'Toronto Blessing' and Sheffield's scandalised 'Nine O'Clock Service'. Speaking in tongues is pretty much *de rigueur*, miracles that work to the individual's benefit are an anticipated part of the deal with the Almighty and underlying all the good works is the desire, compulsion even, to convert. That compulsion appears to become stronger as you look up the leadership ladder in the ambitious, closely intertwined world of house churches and movements that Ian Cotton has taken considerable trouble to understand.

Understanding is important, and Cotton mixes factual reporting with some intelligent and informed analysis. He is a professional writer, with a background in the *Mail on Sunday*, *The Sunday Times* and *The Observer*, and he has good points to make about comparisons with earlier religious movements, along with some more arguable ones about the movements being a counterculture type of response to a decline in the quality of life in the nineties. But he knows his stuff, and it's worth considering his ideas and proposals in the light of reports of abduction experiences, shamanic episodes, near-death experiences and the rest of the subjective, internal high-strangeness events that somehow contribute to dramatic changes in lifestyle and personality.

For the people involved in Pecan, Icthus and the many other house churches and groups dealt with here, a circle certainly doesn't begin and end anywhere. It begins and ends with the One God, who has a close,

proprietary and often financially beneficial interest in those who serve Him, and lead others to do so. These people care for each other because they feel motivated to do so and the caring works for the great majority: it would not occur to them to ask whether there is really anyone other than human beings involved in that caring process.

At the root of all this belief and action is mysterious, mystical, thrilling experience, that sets its participants apart from others.

There are leaders who encourage it, interpret its meanings, tell the expatriots how special and different they are, and draw others in to share those same experiences so they can become special, too. Some of the leaders achieve positions of remarkable power and influence.

If you can see parallels between this and other claims of extraordinary interaction with non-human intelligences over the past 20 years or so, you'll really appreciate this excellent book.

LONDON: SINCLAIR-STEVENSON, 1995. HB £20.00, pp399, INDEX, BIB, NOTES, PLATES, ILLUS. ISBN 1-85619-278-4.

KEVIN MCCLURE

BLAKE

Peter Ackroyd



After impressive and precise biographies of Eliot and Dickens, there's the faint and yet distinct sense here of Peter Ackroyd settling on a subject whose enraptured vision he in part feels an affinity towards; a careful reverence in his approach to Blake's ethereal side that is accomplished without compromising the integrity and candour of the piece.

William Blake - the visionary London prophet-painter-poet of the 18th century - is no easy subject. Any understanding of this luminous and lyric thinker must be undertaken from the inside; from within Blake's dazzling, sometimes inscrutable cosmology and worldview. Ackroyd makes as fine a fist of this as might be reasonably expected, going further into Blake's subjective realm of spirits, shades and angels

than, say, Alexander Gilchrist in his still-definitive *The Life of William Blake*. Ackroyd adds both insightful colouring and an impressive filigree of period detail to the basic Gilchrist outline. In the process, various gems of Forteana are unearthed.

We're told, as an example, of the 'Fiery Meteor' - a bluish fireball, big as a full moon and with a blazing orange tail that seared across the London sky one evening in 1783 - inspiring Blake's engraving of his brother Robert's image, *The Approach of Doom*. Some of the myths surrounding Blake, such as his famous and prophetic warning that Tom Paine should flee from

England while he still could, are here gently defused. Blake's central mystery, the source of his angelic voice and vision is, however, left respectfully untouched.

A sensitive, perceptive portrait of perhaps England's greatest bard and seer, that augments its text with line engravings and a shrewdly-picked array of gorgeous colour plates, combining word and image in a manner that Blake would appreciate. Those interested in either the artist or his visionary world could do worse than invest in this compelling, lucid study.

LONDON: SINCLAIR-STEVENSON, 1995. HB £20.00, pp399, INDEX, BIB, NOTES, PLATES, ILLUS. ISBN 1-85619-278-4.

ALAN MOORE

THE MODERN NUMEROLOGY

John King



Containing far more than the title would suggest, this is a good round-up of numerical lore, starting with the history of numbers, their peculiar properties, magic squares, the symbolic meanings of numbers in various cultures, and so on. King then moves on to discuss Kabbalah and gematria in their various forms, rubbishes the popular numerology to be found in cheap fortunetelling books, replacing it with his own, really quite complex, synthesis of the various interpretive traditions. A detailed work, mingling the scholarly and occult traditions. Recommended.

BLANDFORD, LONDON, 1996, PB £8.99, pp224, INDEX, BIB, NOTES, ILLUS, TABLES, APPENDICES. ISBN 0-7137-2560-5

STEVE MOORE

MYTH, MEANING, AND MEMORY ON ROMAN SARCOPHAGI

Michael Koortbojian



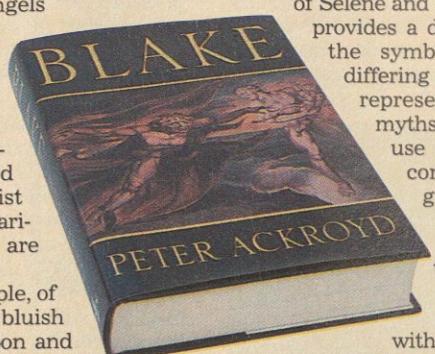
From the second century onward, it became common for the Roman aristocracy to bury their dead in highly decorated stone sarcophagi, carved with intricate mythological reliefs and intended to be displayed at funerary visits to the tomb.

Concentrating on two of the major myths depicted, those of Aphrodite and Adonis and of Selene and Endymion, Koortbojian provides detailed examination of the symbolism displayed, the differing attitudes to death they represent, and the way the myths are adapted to their use in a specific mortuary context. Fascinating, groundbreaking work which, while perhaps limited in scope, is a timely reminder that ancient societies are not to be understood without taking into account

the way they're permeated by myth; and also that myth is not to be divorced from its social context. A splendid piece of work.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESS, BERKELEY, CA, USA. 1995, HB \$40.00, pp238, INDEX, NOTES, BIB, PLATES. ISBN 0-520-08518-3.

STEVE MOORE



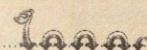
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STEVE MOORE

SILICON EMBRACE

John Shirley



John Shirley is probably best known as one of the originators of the cyberpunk movement in the late eighties; in this highly-entertaining novel, he brings a similarly streetwise sensibility to a fictional exploration of several popular Fortean themes. *Silicon Embrace* is set in a near-future USA, slowly descending into anarchy after a Second Civil War. Large chunks of the country have seceded, leaving those outside the Sovereign United States as lawless wastelands out of *Mad Max*, filled with feuding militias and desperate, isolated survivors.

Into this depressing milieu Shirley throws two separate plotlines. One follows a team of journalists desperately trying to escape "the Bosnia-Herzegovina that California had become"; the other concerns a PR whizz brought in to devise a strategy which will allow the US government, such as it now is, to reveal their lengthy involvement with our old friends the Zeta Reticulans. The two converge into a weird mixture of gnosticism, ufology and conspiracy theory leading up to an entirely unexpected happy ending.

Along the way, he proves how well he's done his research by dropping in endless references to currently-hip themes in Forteana, going so far as to mention "[Chris] Carter's arrest on the set of *The X-Files*, for something ostensibly unrelated to the show's mythos"; later, an alien asks "Would you like to watch an episode of *The X-Files*?" I bet I have some you don't have - there was the suppressed episode that got Chris Carter in so much trouble..."

The novel itself is fast-moving, violent as hell, and snappily written. It's almost painfully on the ball in its Forteana - Area 51, the Greys, alien genetic experiments, conspiracies and militias all crop up somewhere. It gives the air of a novel which involved an incredible amount of research - there are even credits to the *Groom Lake Desert Rat* and *The Excluded Middle*.

A right corker of a read all round and ideal for the SF fan who feels starved of fictional Forteana.

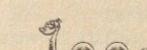
MARK V ZEISING BOOKS, PO BOX 76, SHINGLETOWN, CA 96088, USA. 1996. HB, \$29.95 (TRADE EDITION) / \$65.00 (LIMITED EDITION), 282PP, FICTION. ISBN 0-929480-44-9 (TRADE EDITION), ISBN 0-929480-44-7 (LIMITED EDITION).

JOE McNALLY

BURY ME STANDING

The Gypsies and Their Journey

ISABEL FONSECA



Researching a novel some years ago, I read quite a lot about Gypsies and thought I knew a fair bit about them, but Isabel Fonseca proves me wrong. I knew about the Nazi extermination of

Gypsies in World War II, but nothing about how it has been ignored ever since. I knew nothing about 500 years of Gypsy slavery in Romania. I missed the persecution of Gypsies in post-communist countries, perhaps because it hardly reached the Western news. Above all, I knew nothing about the chilling attitude to Gypsies that Fonseca met time and again: "Even the smallest Gypsy children are thieving monkeys"; "They are all millionaires"; "They should go back where they came from"; "Why are you foreigners so interested in these worthless Gypsies?"; "They are not human"; "Killing Gypsies is charity, not murder."

Happily, the book is not all like that. It is also funny and thought-provoking. Being a woman, Fonseca has understood the Gypsy matriarchy

better than any other writer I've read. The Indian roots of Gypsy culture fairly scream from the page, even before we meet Gypsies who have milked it for every last theatrical drop. The book's characters are vibrantly painted and the culture they inhabit is truly alien.

Alas, the index is poor, while the text contains too much anecdote and travelogue to be a useful reference work. However, that is not what Fonseca set out to write. This book is a passionate defence of a slandered people, and an education to all.

LONDON: VINTAGE (RANDOM HOUSE), 1996. PB, £7.99, pp322, INDEX, ANNOTATED BIB, ILLUS. ISBN 0-09-974021-4.

FINN CLARKE

THE XXX FILES

David Lines & John Abbot

Oh dear. An almost painful read, this. There are few things as awful as a cartoon that doesn't quite work, and this small, expensive book contains 60 of them. You know those naff cartoons you get in even the best-written of fanzines? This is about the level of humour here. Sample captions: "Buck Rogers? Schmuck Rogers!" as a badly drawn alien points at a cinema screen. Oh my sides. Or "I don't give a shit whether this Lucan guy is a Lord - he's mine and I'm keeping him!" as pair of badly-drawn aliens point at a badly-drawn naked man. Nurse! The screens! Many of the actual cartoons are redundant; this is probably a good thing, as they're amateurish at best, only salvaged from complete ineptitude by computer art package tweaking somewhere along the way. Even the press release can't bring itself to say much more than "highly illustrated".

LONDON: ARROW BOOKS, 1996. £4.99, VERY SMALL HB, 64PP, CARTOONS, ISBN 0-09-18182-7.

JOE McNALLY



This well-illustrated popular reference to the development of such obviously important items as the wheel, the plough, boats, writing and so on, starts at the earliest times and ends with the fall of the Roman empire. First published in 1970 and apparently not updated since, it

SCARLET AND THE BEAST

John Daniel



In three volumes and at more than 1,300 pages, this is an enormous monument to misguided endeavour. An evangelical Christian, Daniel is a conspiracy theorist of the manic variety, convinced that world history is entirely controlled by conflicting schools of Freemasonry who, apart from meddling in politics and religion, are also responsible for worldwide drug-trafficking. Beautifully produced, immensely researched, fascinating in its mad detail, this is, quite simply, bonkers.

JON KREGEL, INC., PO BOX 131480, TYLER, TX 75713, USA. 1995. HB \$57.00 FOR THE 3 VOL. VOL. 1, pp947, VOL. 2, pp176, VOL. 3, pp220. INDEX, BIB, REFS, ILLUS. ISBN 0-9635079-8-2; 0-9635079-2-3; 0-9635079-4-X.

JOHN VILCOURT

CULT ARCHAEOLOGY & CREATIONISM

Francis B Harrold & Raymond A Eve [Eds]



Forteans often find themselves falling between two opposing camps: the dogmas of establishment science on one side, and those of the more crankish elements of the counter-culture on the other. This is, quite plainly, the archaeological/scientific establishment defending itself, and some of its targets are thoroughly deserving of attack (Erich von Däniken, Barry Fell, Creation Research, etc.). Yet there's a disturbing tendency to broaden the field to include all perceived 'pseudosciences', such as UFOs, Bigfoot, etc., attempting to blacken them all with a single argument. This simply isn't sound methodology.

Mostly based around questionnaires distributed to US university students, this collection of essays does have much of interest and value; but I'm amused to note that three years of college education doesn't actually seem to lessen belief in these 'pseudoscientific' matters very much. What a great job these people are doing!

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA PRESS, IOWA CITY. 1995. PB \$13.95, pp199, REFS, CHARTS. ISBN 0-87745-513-9.

STEVE MOORE

TECHNOLOGY IN THE ANCIENT WORLD

Henry Hodges



This well-illustrated popular reference to the development of such obviously important items as the wheel, the plough, boats, writing and so on, starts at the earliest



ALSO RECEIVED

PROJECT BLUE BOOK

Chris Wilder

Limited edition reprint (1,000 copies) of the original USAF 'Blue Book' document of 1966. It lacks any commentary that would have made its military-speak intelligible or bring the extensive research on many cases up to date.

Imschoot uitgevers, Burggravenlaan 20, 8900 Gent, Belgium. 1995, pb price unknown, pp160, photos. ISBN 90-72191-76-5.

THE LOCH NESS MONSTER:

The Evidence
Stewart Campbell

Campbell says: "There is absolutely no reason why anyone should believe in the existence of lake monsters," and sets out to demolish all Nessie sightings and photos. This revision of the 1986 and 1991 editions is a flawed classic of reductionism.

Birlinn, 14 High St, Edinburgh EH1 1TE. 1996, pb £6.99, pp128, index, bib, refs, photos. ISBN 1-874744-81-0.

THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE: Mystery No More

Richard Silvester

Detailed study of sea and weather vortices and other conditions applied to the canon of ship and aircraft disappearances by an experienced civil engineer. Essential for your 'marine mysteries' bookshelf. Navigator Books, Moorhouse, Kingston, Ringwood, Hants BH24 3BJ, UK. 1996, pb £9.99, pp137, refs, diag. ISBN 0-902830-68-6.

CELTIC SACRED LANDSCAPES

Nigel Pennick

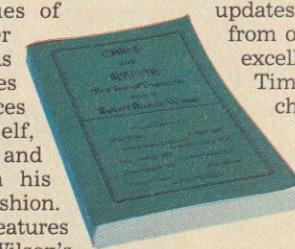
Extensive encyclopaedia of landscape features revered by the Celtic nations of Western Europe: from trees and stones to tracks, wells and homes. The knowledgeable Pennick at his best. Thames & Hudson, London. 1996, hb £12.95, pp224, index, bib, gazetteer, illus. ISBN 0-500-01666-6.

ANGELS OF ALBION

Jane Robinson

Fascinating reconstruction of the Indian Mutiny of 1857 from the diaries of the besieged members. Not strictly Fortean but provides a fascinating insight into human behaviour under crisis. Viking, London. 1996, hb £20, pp298, index, bib, notes, plates. ISBN 0-670-84670-8.

REVIEWED BY BOB RICKARD



obviously lacks material on recent discoveries and developments in the field, and steers clear of controversial items such as the Baghdad battery. It also betrays its prejudices all too clearly: the emphasis is mainly on Egypt and the Middle East; there's much less material on the Graeco-Roman world and, astonishingly, the Chinese are exiled to a final chapter among the "Barbarians".

MICHAEL O'MARA, LONDON. 1996, HB £14.99, pp313, INDEX, BIB, ILLUS. (O'MARA MAIL ORDER TEL: 01624 675137). ISBN 1-85479-604-6.

STEVE MOORE

CHAOS AND BEYOND: The Best of Trajectories

Robert Anton Wilson et al

Robert Anton Wilson should need no introduction to *FT* readers. Co-author, with the late Robert Shea, of the

seminal *Illuminatus!* trilogy and writer of an ever-growing list of fiction and non-fiction, he is one of the most entertaining and original thinkers on the fringe at the moment. As the subtitle suggests, this is an anthology of some of the writing which has appeared in the first 10 issues of RAW's newsletter *Trajectories*. As such, it comprises largely short pieces by Wilson himself, extrapolating and hypothesising in his customary wild fashion. There are also features contributed by Wilson's fringe peers, including Linus Pauling and the late Timothy Leary.

Wilson fans will probably know what to expect from *Chaos & Beyond*. The material is intriguing, funny, irritating and mind-wrenching – often all at once. Topics include old Wilson favourites like life extension, poverty elimination, conspiracies, psychedelics and UFOs; he gives each topic a thorough going-over, in his entertaining

JOE McNALLY

EXCHANGE MAGS EXCHANGE MAGS EXCHANGE MAGS EXCHANGE

ANTIQUITIES & EARTH MYSTERIES

ANCIENT is a bimonthly magazine of antiquarian culture. Specialised but excellent. Agora, 82 Hythe Road, Brighton BN1 6JS, UK.

AT THE EDGE continues to be one of the finest antiquarian magazines around. The December 1996 issue is a greenery special, with articles on the dating of yew trees, sacred trees in Bristol, and foliate faces among others. Vital stuff. *At The Edge*, 2 Cross Hill Close, Wymeswold, Loughborough LE12 6UJ, UK.

UFO: RIVISTA DI INFORMAZIONE is a bimonthly UFO magazine in Italian, accompanied by the Italian *UFO Reporter*, a newsletter which prints English-language abstracts from previous issues of *UFO*, and *CISU*Flash*, which gives Italian UFO news in brief (and in English). Good stuff; published by the Centro Italiano Studi Ufologici. *CISU*, PO Box 82, I-10100 Torino, Italy. e-mail edardo.russo@torino.alpcom.it

CRYPTOZOLOGY

WORLD EXPLORER is a real delight, even if they do nick our illustrations. It deals with lost civilisations, cryptozoology, and general Indiana Jones behaviour. Wonderful sense of humour – vol 1, no 8 tells us that 89 per cent of their readers "own more books than they can read". And we all know one of them, don't we? *World Explorer's Club*, 403 Kemp Street, Kempton, Illinois 60946, USA.

THE CRYPTOZOLOGY REVIEW is as good and serious a crypto magazine as you will find. Examines all areas of weird weather; September 1996 issue features an analysis of the Lake Migo 'lake monster' film, reports on two Yowie sightings and a lively letters page, including an endorsement from Dr Heuvelmans himself. *The Cryptozoology Review*, 137 Atlas Avenue, Toronto ON, Canada M6C 3P4. e-mail: bz050@freenet.carleton.ca

METEOROLOGY

THE JOURNAL OF METEOROLOGY is hardcore but very good. Examines all areas of weird weather; September 1996 issue features an analysis of the November 1994 Negev desert dust storm, part four in MW Rowe and GT Meaden's account of 1970s British tornadoes and waterspouts, and a comprehensive review section. *Journal of Meteorology*, QED House, From Road, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire BA15 1LD, UK.

REVIEWED BY BOB RICKARD

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E-mail: paul@fortmag.win.uk.net

or post on the FT web site at www.forteantimes.com

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LETTERS: Letters of comment or about experiences are welcome. We reserve the right to edit submissions.

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FT aims to present the widest range of interpretations to stimulate discussion and welcomes helpful criticism. The opinions of contributors are not necessarily those of the editors. **FT** can take no responsibility for submissions, but will take all reasonable care of material in its possession. Requests for return of material should be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope or International Reply Coupon.

FORTEAN FORUMS ON INTERNET

There are currently two discussion forums on the net open to Forteans everywhere. We don't own them but join in regularly. To join the alt.misc.forteana newsgroup, 'subscribe' via your net-browser. To join the e-mail-based *Fortean* mailing list, send an e-mail to majordomo@primenet.com with the words subscribe *fortean* on the first line of the otherwise blank message.

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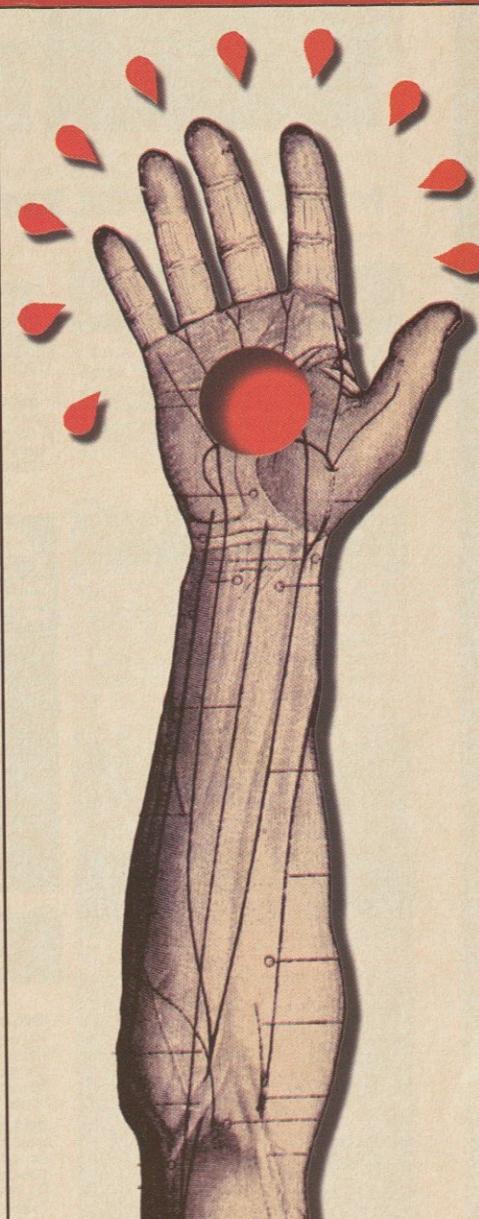
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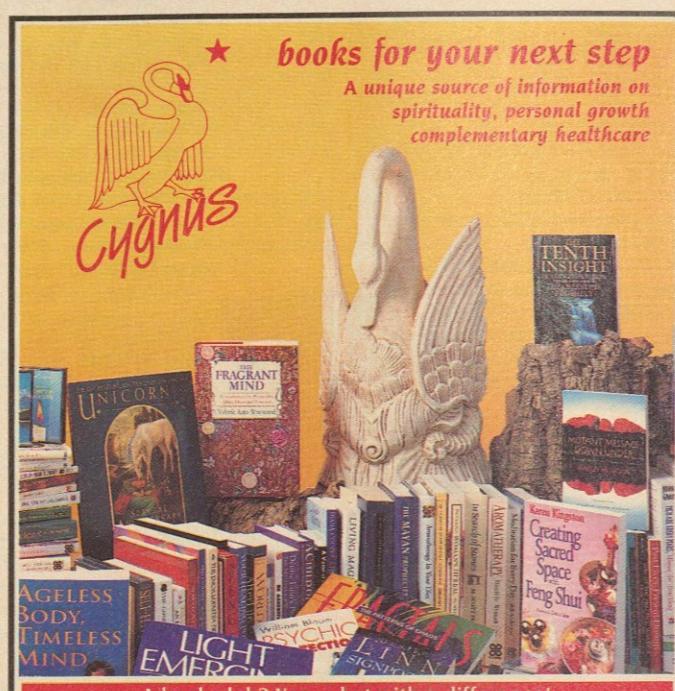
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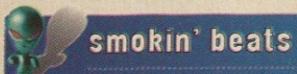
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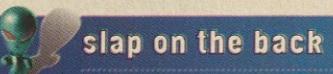
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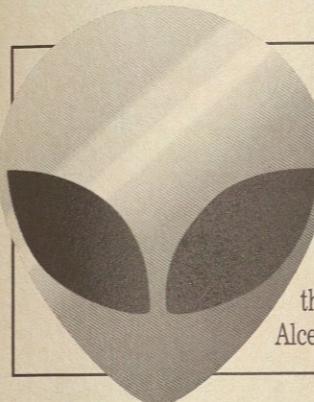
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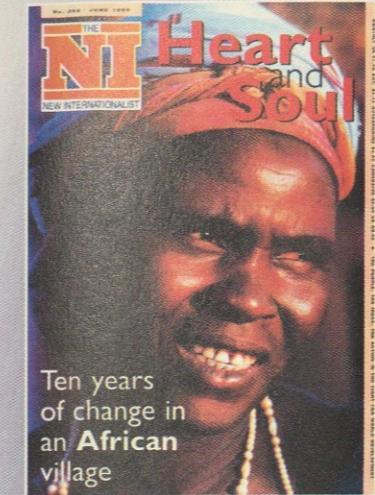
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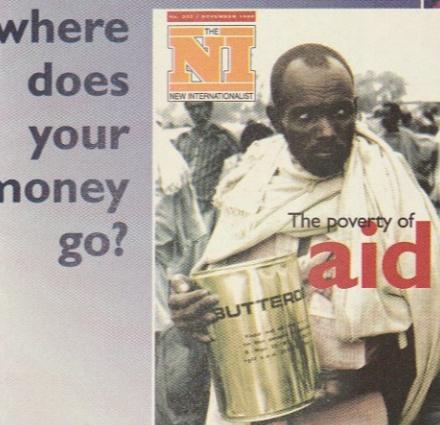
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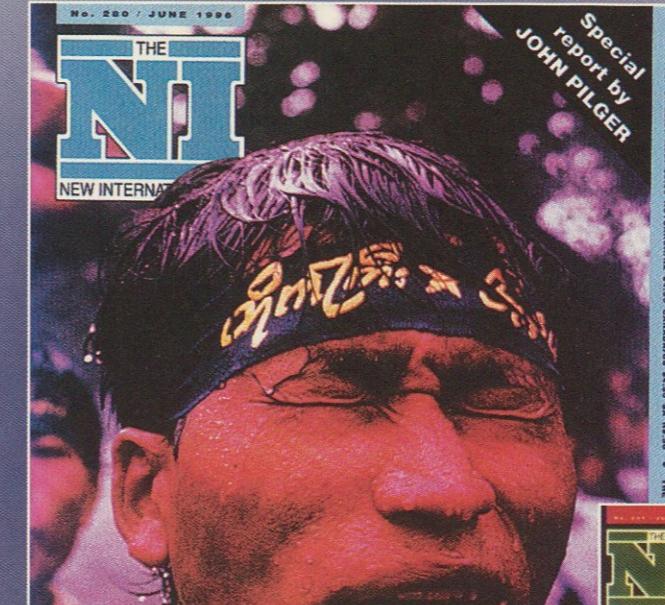
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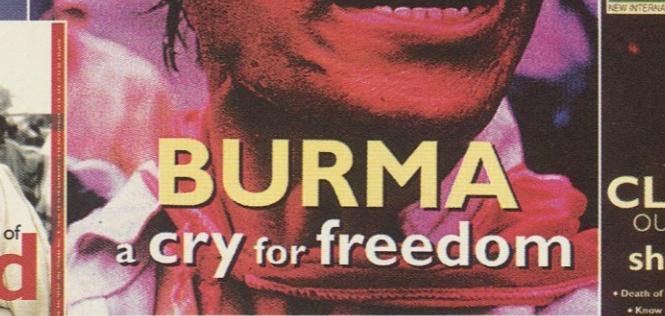
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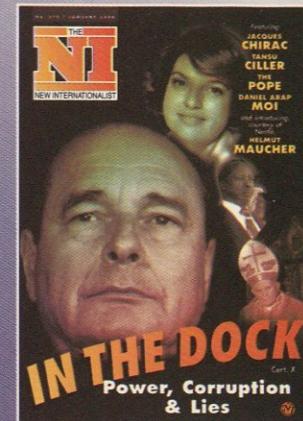
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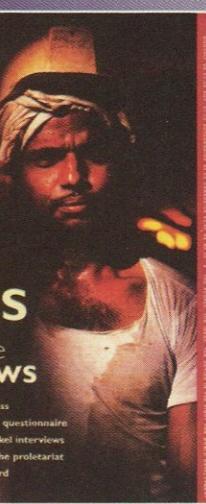
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